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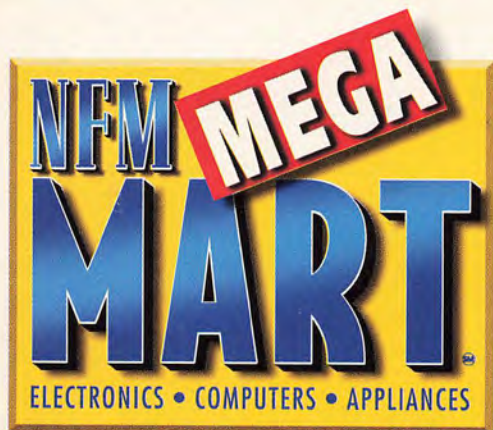
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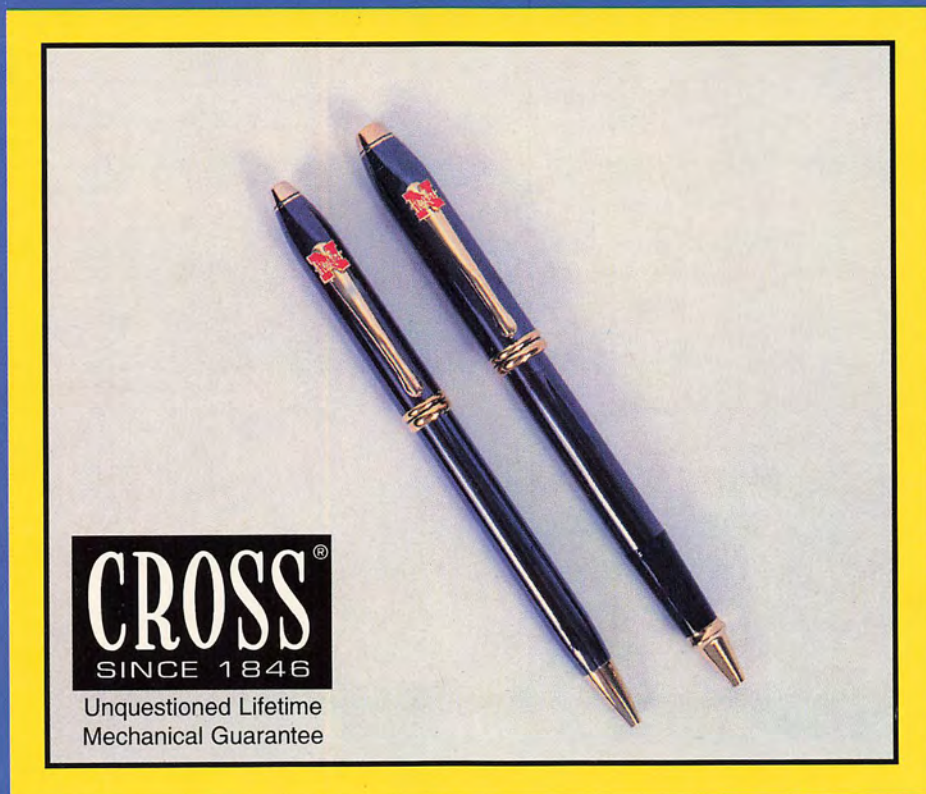
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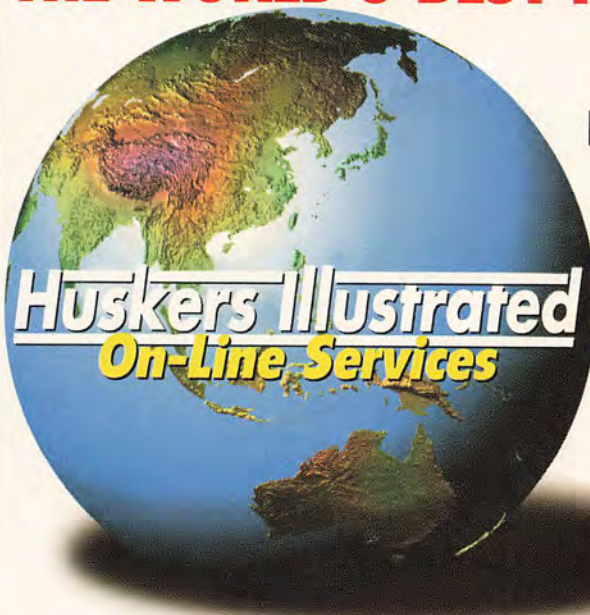
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It has been mentally instilled in the Black Shirts that they MUST stop the run to make opponents one-dimensional. This year's squad has been more than up to the task.

By Mike Babcock

28 Poll Power

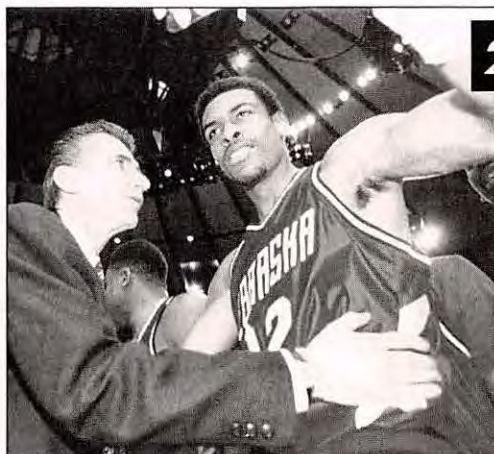
Danny Nee's teams seem to play better with a chip on their shoulders and the preseason magazines have helped place it there this year.

34 Best Of The Best: The Numbers Game (Jerseys 81-90)

Broderick Thomas set a standard for excellence at outside linebacker (or rush end as it's called now) and is an easy pick at No. 89 even though he shares the top spot with Junior Miller, another Texan who established a standard for tight ends.



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November 17, 1996.

LETTERS

Reading the "Q&A With Tommie Frazier (Nov. 9, 1996)" made me realize that there should be a rule that a college team can pay one player each year to keep them on campus. I know this is absurd, but when you look at what Frazier



was able to accomplish during his time at Nebraska, it makes you wish for stuff like that. Frazier has left behind a legacy that will stand untouched for at least 10 years. I still love Turner Gill and what

he did with the "Scoring Explosion," but Frazier is the best.

Cassandra Powers
Omaha, Neb.

It took some king size you-know-whats to put Will Shields ahead of Larry Jacobson for the best to ever wear No. 75 in last week's "Best of the Best" article (Nov. 9). Shields was good, maybe even great. But I think Jacobson should have got the edge. If you put both guys in a room and let them fight for the jersey, I think Jacobson would come out wearing it.

Tanner Howard
Las Vegas, Nev.

Judging from the Black Shirts' performance against Oklahoma, I don't think it would be too hard to believe that the defense could carry the offense if Scott Frost and company can't get it done. This year's defense not only plays brutal against the run, its pass coverage has been great. It also seems like they score at least 14 points a game.

Paul Bennett
Lincoln, Neb.

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6 NOVEMBER 16, 1996

fromTheEDITOR

Among the questions to be answered during the Dallas Mavericks' training camp was who would be the fifth guard on a roster that included NBA veterans Jason Kidd, Jim Jackson, Derek Harper and Tony Dumas. The top candidates going into camp were Jimmy King and Shawn Harvey.

King, one of Michigan's famed "Fab Five," was picked up in an off-season trade with the Toronto Raptors. King had a guaranteed contract. Harvey was a second-round draft pick.

It turned out, however, that the competition was between King and former Cornhusker Erick Strickland, who was invited to camp with the Mavericks as an undrafted free agent.

Strickland asserted himself in limited time during the exhibition season. Playing an average of 15.2 minutes in five games, he finished as the team's sixth-highest scorer.

He shot 40.6 percent from the field, including 52.9 percent from three-point range (9-of-17). And, of course, he played his signature hustling, aggressive defense, making six steals.

Strickland played so well *The Dallas Morning News* reported 11 days before the NBA deadline for identifying 12-man rosters: "In some respects (he) has had a more solid preseason than King."

In addition to a guaranteed contract and some NBA experience, King is from Plano, Texas. He had local appeal. As the Oct. 31 roster deadline drew near, the question was whether first-year head coach Jim Clemons and his assistants were impressed enough with Strickland to release King.

It turned out that they were. The day before the deadline, Dallas waived King and put Strickland on the roster. Strickland received a one-year contract for the NBA minimum salary and a No. 20 jersey.

"This has been hectic, but it's great," Strickland told the *Omaha World-Herald*.

Strickland earned a job in the NBA not only because of his ability but also because of his determination. Even though he wasn't drafted, he continued to believe in himself. His rise to prominence began modestly enough, in an Indiana Pacers' summer camp for rookie free agents.

As a result of his play in the camp, he was selected to represent the Pacers in a seven-game series in July against teams of other free-agent rookies. The games were played in Los Angeles.

The Pacers were well-stocked with guards, and weren't interested in keeping Strickland. But Dallas liked what it saw during the summer and invited him to camp. All he needed was a chance.

Strickland is among the best athletes who have competed at Nebraska in recent seasons. He signed a contract with baseball's Florida Marlins following his graduation from Bellevue (West) High School. He was technically a basketball walk-on at Nebraska. The Marlins paid for his education.

NBA scouts regularly scouted Strickland last season. He averaged 14.7 points and 4.7 rebounds to earn second-team All-Big Eight honors and capped the season by being chosen as the most valuable player in the National Invitation Tournament. Nevertheless, he was ignored in the draft.

Strickland was a longshot to make the Mavericks, or any other NBA roster. Even players who are drafted after the first-round lottery picks often end up playing in Europe.

Mike Babcock, Contributing Editor



Strickland battled the long odds to make the Dallas Mavericks as a free agent.

Battling Cyclones And Mother Nature

*Ames, Iowa, is a nice place to broadcast a game,
but not in November*

We've all heard that it's not nice to fool with Mother Nature, and at this time of the year in Ames, Iowa that rings true. The weather can be brutal

there.

I remember when Tim Moreland, Dennis Claridge and I were broadcasting a Cornhusker football game in Ames. The temperature was between 25 and 30 degrees, with the wind straight out of the north at 30 miles per hour. I was handling the sideline mike. It was on this day that notions of early retirement from doing radio sideline reports danced slowly in my head.

Our crew was forewarned that we all might be outside and sure enough, when we arrived our booth was in the great outdoors, at the north end of the pressbox. A couple of tables and some metal chairs awaited the crew in the booth. Tim, Denny and our engineer sat there, lined up like oversized packages in the frozen food section of the grocery store. There was a distinct background chatter to our broadcast that day.

We wore whatever insulated clothing we could find. Tim was wrapped in a blanket, with a scarf around his neck, over his head and tucked under his collar on the other side. If someone had run by and grabbed the scarf, they've would have hung him, no question. His red and white stocking cap had a little tail and he looked like Santa's sleigh driver.

Denny was better prepared for this ordeal. Being an avid outdoorsman and hunter, he was pretty well decked out. For him, it was like sitting in an unheated duck blind. Plus, he was from Minnesota, where all this stuff comes from, so he rather enjoyed it.

Ken, the engineer, huddled between Tim and Denny, a couple of great windbreaks. He was fine, even a bit cozy between two guys who were dressed like (and looked like) Grizzly Adams and Paul Bunyan.



**By
ADRIAN
FIALA**

I got to spend the afternoon on the field, and every time I wanted to say something, I had to turn my back to the wind because of the noise it made in the microphone. I'll never forget my pregame show, live from the field with Bob Devaney. Bob would usually come down 10 or 20 minutes prior to going on the air. This time, it



The weather in Ames in November can be brutal for both the coaches and broadcasters.

was about five minutes to air, and he still had not arrived.

About three minutes to air time, he came hustling down the stadium steps. At our first break, he asked if he could have some hot coffee from my thermos.

"Sure, Coach, be my guest." I didn't tell him the coffee had a few additives. When he first tasted the enhanced brew, he said, "Adrian, I believe you've classed up this broadcast 100 percent."

By the end of the third quarter, I was developing a severe case of cold weather lockjaw and felt like I was talking between the spaces in my

teeth, like a guy with his jaw wired shut. I made it through the fourth quarter and fortunately never exposed any bare skin to metal.

It is incredible what we do for the love of the game.

It's really strange because Iowa State is also the site of another broadcast beauty, which occurred at the Cyclones' baseball facility — Cap Timm Field. The facility, at the time had no pressbox, so we sat in the last row of the bleachers with a canvas flap overhead. The canvas was full of holes.

Jim Rose and I huddled under that useless canvas flap, on what was a pretty decent day. It was a doubleheader and a lot of students had turned out which was a little odd. We should have known. You see, at each corner of the bleachers, the students had set up a keg, and by about the fifth inning, the stands were rocking and rolling.

It was little wonder Nebraska's broadcasters — that is, Rose and Fiala — became first, the object of the fans' verbal abuse, and second, the target for paper cups, thrown beer, dirt clods and whatever else was handy. Rose and I were ducking various missiles and trying to call balls and strikes. We left Ames and made a pact not to return — maybe ever, but at least not until we had the shelter of a pressbox.

The pressbox at Cyclone Stadium-Jack Trice Field is one of my favorites from the standpoint of field view. It's sandwiched between the main stands and the balcony, providing an excellent view of the field. A lot of stadiums these days have pressboxes that enhance the prospect of mid-air collisions with low-flying planes. Arizona State and Oklahoma are two such stadiums.

At Cyclone Stadium, however, the field view is marvelous and the players are easily identified. If someone could just figure out how to heat Ames in November, it would be a great place to play and broadcast a game. Until that happens, however, remember to send Mother Nature a dozen roses every other year. ■

Living On The Edge

Playing sometimes as sacrificial lambs, Billy Legate and others earn their recognition as wedgebreakers on special teams

W

ith apologies to writer James Agee, let us now praise not-so-famous football players — specifically, Billy Legate, Nebraska's third-string fullback and star of

special teams.

Legate is a wedgebreaker, in kickoff team terminology "R-1," which means he's the first player lined up to the right of kicker Kris Brown. No. 2 fullback Joel Makovicka, a sophomore who also arrived at Nebraska as a walk-on, is "R-2," or the second player lined up to the right of Brown.

The basis for the terminology is obvious. To Brown's left are "L-1" and "L-2," jobs handled most often by starting middle linebacker Jon Hesse and second-team rush end Chad Kelsay.

What they're called isn't important. What they do is, however. As a wedgebreaker, "you're the first guy down the field, a head-hunter," Legate said recently. And therein lies this story.

Among the many reasons for Nebraska's consistent success is coach Tom Osborne's emphasis on the kicking game. Effective kicking can contribute to poor field position for the opposition. And poor field position can make a significant difference in a team's defensive effectiveness.

Likewise, effective defense can produce good field position for the offense. The two are closely aligned. "If you win the special teams (play), it makes a big impact," Legate said.

And he has made a big impact on special teams the past two seasons.

His contributions this season have been such that he drew mention during Osborne's weekly news conference on the Tuesday before the Texas Tech game. Legate suffered a pulled hamstring covering a kickoff against Kansas State and wasn't

healthy enough to make the trip to Lubbock.

Osborne doesn't often elaborate on injuries to third-team players. But the injury to Legate was significant, according to Osborne, because of his importance in the kicking game.

"Billy Legate has been a tremendous player in this regard," Osborne said, not-

ing that in addition to the virtuoso wedgebreaking, "Billy has been a very key player on our punt coverage. He's just a tough guy. You have to have a bunch of those people in order to have a good team."

Legate has earned a place on the list of the Cornhuskers' most notorious wedgebreakers, among them Doug Welniak and Lance Gray, who set the standard for those who have followed.

Gray, a walk-on from Owego, N.Y., is probably the best-known in a long-line of largely anonymous

kickoff coverage specialists. He earned the self-explanatory nickname "Bullethead," for the reckless abandon that characterized his sprint down the field to break up blocking wedges.

Welniak was a walk-on from tiny Elyria, Neb., whose enthusiastic special teams play earned him election as a Cornhusker co-captain in 1987. The 5-foot-10, 215-pound Welniak also played linebacker. But it was on special teams that he most distinguished himself, and earned three letters.

Legate's credentials are certainly in order. He looks the part, with an iron-jaw beard, and he answers reporters with the studied skepticism of someone accustomed to football violence. "You've just got to be a person who's not afraid to go into contact," he said. "You've got to be a little crazy."

"It's a lot of fun. When the game starts, you want to set a tone."

A kickoff provides the perfect stage for that. The receiving team usually sets up a wedge of blockers, in hopes of clearing a path for a long return. It's all about territory, who



**By
MIKE
BABCOCK**

Legate (40) has earned a place on the list of the Cornhuskers' most notorious wedgebreakers.



Bob Berry

controls what.

"If you totally pancake the wedge, they know (the answer)," Legate said.

Legate made the kickoff team the way most wedgebreakers do. He volunteered. The responsibility of risking life and limb for 5 yards of field position one way or the other isn't something to be assigned. The best special teams players willingly carry out their duties, with an extraordinary passion.

"I came in and wanted a chance to play wherever I could. I knew not everybody likes to do that," Legate said of breaking wedges. "You can be the sacrificial lamb, I suppose."

Can be, but not necessarily. Legate dishes out as good as he gets. The key is building more momentum than the blocker on the sprint down the field. The player going fastest at the instant of collision wins the battle. "If you're running faster than the other guy and you're not afraid, if he's a little timid..."

"You see guys pulling up," said Legate. "That's when I'm grinning."

Legate redshirted his first season, then volunteered for special teams.

"My (redshirted) freshman year, the coaches weren't happy with the special teams play," he said. "I thought I had the ability to get on there. I pretty much went as hard as I could go, just to get a start. If you can get in on a special team, you feel like you're doing a lot. You can make a big difference."

Legate was a running back and linebacker at Clearwater, Neb., High, where he earned all-state honors twice, once on offense and once on defense. He rushed for 3,500 yards his final two seasons.

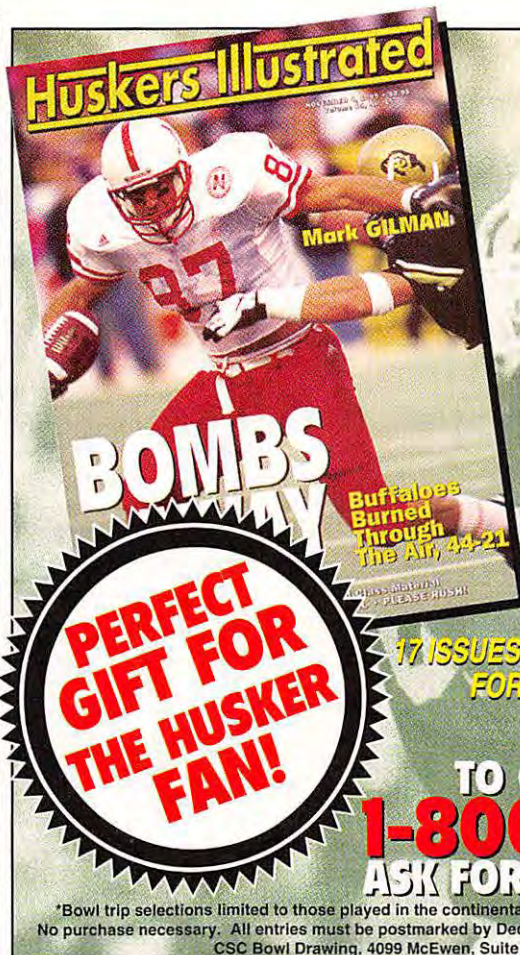
Though he lived in the Clearwater school district, he had a Neligh phone listing and an Elgin address, the sort of confusion one might expect of someone who volunteers to be a wedge-breaker.

But Legate is capable of making intelligent decisions. He has made the Phillips 66 Big Eight Academic Honor Roll, carrying a 3.540 cumulative grade-point average with an education major.

Legate lives on the edge by choice, and he has designs on playing at fullback as well. For the time being, however, "I feel comfortable with where I'm at," he said.

Where he's at is, well, out there. Just ask his teammates.

That's tradition on the kickoff team, among wedgebreakers in particular. ■



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Mark GILMAN

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THE JET'S RETROSPECTIVE

Turning It On

After stumbling out of the blocks (against Arizona State), the Huskers are at full speed and ready to turn the corner

In November of 1972, I experienced the lowest point in my career at Nebraska. That might be difficult to believe because I was about to win the Heisman Trophy, and I had played on back-to-back national championship teams. I had played in several momentous victories as a Cornhusker.

For one day, however, none of that seemed to matter. The day was Nov. 11.

We had lost our season-opener to UCLA, 20-17, ending our 32-game unbeaten streak. We still had a chance of "three-peating" but we couldn't afford another loss or even a tie. We went into the season ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll. After the loss to UCLA, we dropped

to No. 10 (in the *Associated Press* poll).



**By
JOHNNY
RODGERS**

We worked our way back up, steadily, finally moving to No. 3 after a 56-0 win over Kansas. The Kansas game was the third of four straight shutouts. We were No. 3 when we went to Ames, Iowa, to play Iowa State. And that's where our hope of a third straight national championship was dashed.

Even our plans for at least a tie for the Big Eight title were given a frustrating jolt by the Cyclones, who battled us furiously to a 23-23 tie. Had they not missed an extra point with 23 seconds left in the game, they would have won.

In retrospect, I guess, we were probably still mentally distraught, embarrassed and disappointed by the opening loss to UCLA. That's

what made the tie seem so monumental. The winners had finally lost.

What do winners do when they finally lose? Well, they can sit around and feel sorry for themselves and develop a case of "stinkin' thinkin'" while concentrating on all the wrong things that occurred. Or they can believe in the old saying: "If it doesn't kill you, it'll make you stronger."

One of the main things to remember in such situations is that only change is consistent. If you change your mind, everything else around you will change as well.

H.E. Jansen said: "The man who wins may have been counted out several times, but he didn't hear the referee."

One should never resort to quitting. It becomes habitual. Personally, I have always believed in the motivational words of Napoleon Hill: "If you can look up, you can get up."

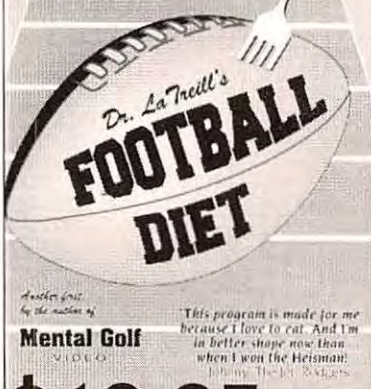
This 1996 Husker team has suffered one loss against Arizona State. But Nebraska is still the defending national champion and is now coming back like a true winner. This means that we still have a chance to "three-peat" on Bourbon Street, whether it's one of the Florida teams, the Texas teams or just the Colorado Buffaloes we're talking about, we've got them all right where we want them.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said: "In life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is, hit the line hard." I look at Nebraska's loss as us taking a step back to get a running start. Now, we're charging full speed.

What do winners do when they lose? They better prepare themselves, grow in confidence and courage and then come back strong. In 1972, when we were coming out of a season in which we lost twice and tied once, we went to the Orange Bowl and dogged Notre Dame, 40-6. I scored four touchdowns and threw one pass for another touchdown. That's what winning Nebraskans do. They win one more. ■

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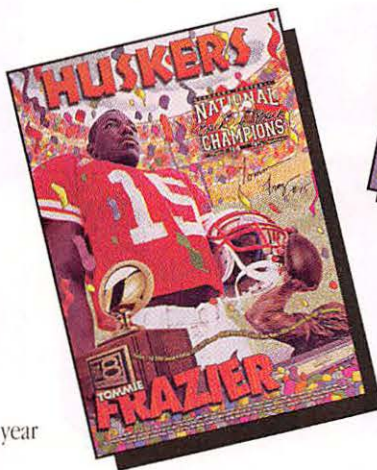
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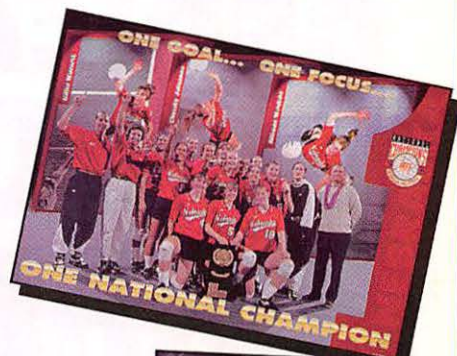
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DEDICATED TO STOPPING THE RUN

It has been mentally instilled in the Black Shirts that they MUST stop the run, to make opponents one-dimensional.

This year's squad has been more than up to the task

Grant Wistrom wasn't totally satisfied with the defensive performance in Nebraska's 63-7 victory against Kansas. More specifically, the

Cornhuskers' junior rush end saw room for improvement in stopping the run. "Kansas had a few more yards rushing than I'd like," he said.

Yes, we're talking about the Kansas game here. And yes, the Jayhawks managed only 21 rushing yards, net, on 30 carries. They actually gained 55 yards but lost 34. Their longest run from scrimmage was 7 yards. They picked up just two of their nine first downs by rushing.

Any defense could be proud of such an effort. And Wistrom wasn't complaining. The thing is, however, "we'd like to keep them (opponents)

down around zero, or even in negative numbers. I'm awfully greedy on things like this. We feel we can maybe keep a team in negative yards rushing," he said.

That mindset has enabled Nebraska to rank among the nation's leaders in rushing defense this season. The Cornhuskers have been stingy, stopping the run like never before, with a 4-3 base defense put in to help them deal more effectively with the passing teams they encounter in bowl games.

Despite the change in philosophy represented by the switch to a 4-3 base, Nebraska has remained committed to stopping the run first. "The mentality instilled in us is that we MUST stop the run, to make them (opponents) one-dimensional, and then attack the pass," Wistrom said.

He has embraced that approach,

enthusiastically in fact, even though he has distinguished himself as a pass rusher. "When you're rushing the passer, that's when you get all of the attention, all the glory," he said. "Playing the run requires a blue-collar work ethic. But I like stopping the run."

Everyone on defense has shown a willingness to subvert personal concerns for the greater good. A recent headline in the *Omaha World-Herald* said: "NU Defense Adopts 'No Name' Attitude."

Players have taken turns stepping up. "I think a lot of that has to do with the chemistry. I really don't think there are any guys who have a prima donna attitude. They're all pretty much blue-collar players, just wanting to do their part," linebackers coach Craig Bohl said after the Kansas game.

Harry Lentz, Jr.





Against the run, the front four's part is to keep blockers away from linebackers Jon Hesse, Terrell Farley and Jamel Williams so they can make tackles. The contributions of Wistrom, Jared Tomich, Jason Peter and Jeff Ogard in stopping the run can't always be measured by individual statistics.

"Most of the time we don't make the tackle, but we do a lot of the work," said Wistrom. "If we make the play, that's great. But Jon, Jamel and Terrell are usually going to be the ones who do."

No matter what their responsibility in a given situation, they have done it aggressively.

"Very rarely have there not been 11 guys flying around to the football," Bohl said. "That's an attitude that doesn't just happen overnight. It's been a trademark of our defense

all fall."

Among Nebraska's defensive goals is holding opponents to 2 yards or less on first down. If the Cornhuskers can do that at least 60 percent of the time, they can be successful. When an offense constantly faces second-and-long and third-and-long, it is much less effective.

Nebraska's statistical success against the run, and in overall defense for that matter, also has been a result of the effort by back-up defensive players. There hasn't been much of a drop-off.

"One thing I was really impressed with the last few weeks is, we've had some second- and third-unit players who have gone in and played pretty well," coach Tom Osborne said the week after the Kansas game. "Quite often in the past when we've substituted freely about the middle of the

third quarter, we'll all of a sudden give up a couple of hundred yards and 14 to 21 points. That just hasn't happened.

"You've got to look at the numbers a little bit and realize that in at least three or four games, we haven't played our first unit very long. I think they've been doing a pretty good job overall."

Even though the Cornhuskers are down to the final two regular-season games, "we can be much better. We've all got to act like we've got a big chip on our shoulder. We've got something to prove. We're getting a lot of recognition for being a good defense. But we feel we deserve more," said Wistrom. "We feel we can be one of the best ever, and we're not going to be happy until we reach that goal."

Nebraska has always done well

defending the run. Since Bob Devaney arrived in 1962, the Cornhuskers have finished among the nation's Top 20 in run defense 14 times. They have ranked first in the conference in run defense 17 times. And they have allowed an average of 200 yards rushing only twice.

Nebraska has never led the nation in run defense, but it has ranked second three times, including last season (78.4 yards per game). Devaney's 1971 national champions also ranked second nationally against the run (85.9), as did Osborne's 1979 team (93.1). A measure of how well the 1971 team played the run could be seen in the season-high 279 rushing yards it

allowed Oklahoma in the "Game of the Century." The Sooners set the NCAA single-season rushing record in 1971, averaging 472.4 yards per game.

Oklahoma's rushing tradition is evidenced by the fact that seven of the top 10 rushing totals against Nebraska since World War II have been by the Sooners. The best they've done since Charlie McBride became Nebraska's defensive coordinator (in 1982) was 423 yards (on 70 carries) in 1984.

Going into this year's Missouri game, Nebraska had gone 34 games without allowing as many as 200 yards rushing — the Sooners were the last to reach that total, getting

209 in 1993. They came close again this year when redshirt freshman DeMond Parker scampered for 151 of OU's 189 rushing yards in the fourth quarter of NU's 73-21 win in Norman. Granted Parker's yards were against mainly third-teamers, but a record is a record regardless of who you play against.

The Cornhuskers had gone 46 games without allowing 300 or more rushing yards, dating to the ignominious 19-10 loss at Iowa State in 1992. The Cyclones rushed for 373 yards that day, with quarterback Marv Seiler getting 144 of those yards and fullback Chris Ulrich adding 105.

Iowa State rushed 70 times

MAKING THOMAS EAT HIS WORDS

IT WAS A good day to run the football, or to do just about anything else for that matter. The skies were clear. The temperature at kickoff was 70 degrees. And there was just a hint of a breeze.

Oklahoma State's Thurman Thomas was the nation's leading rusher. The senior tailback was averaging 140 rushing yards per game. He was being touted as a Heisman Trophy candidate. And his candidacy was "legitimate," to use a cliché, until that idyllic afternoon in mid-October of 1987.

But we're getting ahead of the story...

On the night before that game in Stillwater, Okla., the Nebraska football team went to a movie, as is its custom. The theater complex to which Nebraska went allowed players a choice of movies.

Cornhusker defensive backs Brian Washington and Marvin Sanders picked the recently released "Like Father, Like Son," which also was attended by several Oklahoma State players.

As they were walking out of the theater afterward, Washington tried to make friendly conversation with some of the Cowboy players. "How's it going?" he asked of no one in particular.

Sanders, a gregarious sort, wished another Cowboy good luck in the game.

What was intended to be cordial turned out not to be. By the time other players emerged from different theaters in the complex, Nebraska and Oklahoma State players were shouting at each other. Thomas, who was on a bus that had brought the Cowboys to the theaters, was yelling out a window, Nebraska offensive tackle Keven Lightner recalled the next day. "He was saying things like, no one man could bring him down, that kind of stuff. Right there, I knew he was going to be in for a long day (on Saturday)."

Whether Thomas had a different version of exactly what happened has been lost to history. All that can be verified are the particulars of his performance against the Cornhuskers, and the fact that his Heisman candidacy was terminated — rather unceremoniously, to be honest about it.

Oklahoma State went into the game with five consecutive victories, its best start to a season in more than 40 years. Coach Pat Jones' team had a balanced offense, which averaged 442.8 yards and 37.4 points. Thomas ran,

and Mike Gundy threw, more often than not to Hart Lee Dykes. Gundy was the Big Eight's top-ranked passer. The lanky Dykes was the conference's top-ranked receiver.

The Cowboys' offensive diversity posed enough problems that, theoretically at least, the defense couldn't load up to stop the run without leaving itself vulnerable to the pass.

Thomas carried on OSU's second play from scrimmage and gained 3 yards.

He didn't get his next carry until the second series, when he was met, on first-and-10 at the Cowboy 49, by middle guard Lawrence Pete and tackle Neil Smith, who buried him for a 2-yard loss.

Thomas carried again on Oklahoma State's third possession, gaining 4 yards on another first-down play. That turned out to be his longest run of the afternoon, which was of little consolation. He fumbled, and defensive end Jeff Jamrog recovered at the Oklahoma State 29-yard line.

The Cornhuskers couldn't take advantage of the mistake, however. Thomas was off the hook, but only momentarily. He carried twice on the Cowboys' next possession, gaining nothing on the first play and being tackled by linebacker Steve Forch for a 2-yard loss on the second.

After one quarter, Thomas had five carries for a net gain of 3 yards.

He carried only twice in the second quarter, for 4 yards total, and twice more in the third quarter, gaining 1 yard then being dropped for a yard loss by Smith and linebacker LeRoy Etienne... nine carries, 7 yards. Afterward in the Nebraska locker room, outside linebacker Broderick Thomas, never at a loss for words, exclaimed: "Seven yards? I love it! If you're going to talk, you'd better have something to back it up. Against the run, I don't think anybody can play with us, anybody in the country."

Said cornerback Charles Fryar: "What's his number, 34? Well, three plus four is seven."

The shutting down of Thomas ranks among Nebraska's most impressive defensive efforts against top running backs during Charlie McBride's tenure as defensive coordinator.

Earlier in the 1987 season, the Cornhuskers limited third-ranked UCLA's Gaston Green, another running back who had been a Heisman hopeful, to 46 yards on 19

against Nebraska and threw only four passes, three of which were complete. The Cyclones controlled the ball for more than 37 minutes. They did what Nebraska usually does.

On balance, the Cornhuskers' offensive commitment to the run has contributed to their defensive success against it. The defense is confronted by aggressive, run-blocking linemen every day in practice. The defenses of passing teams face offensive linemen more accustomed to backing up.

Whether or not this Nebraska defense will go down with the best

in history remains to be seen. After this week's game with Iowa State and rusher extraordinaire Troy Davis, the Cornhuskers will face their greatest defensive challenge of the regular season when Colorado visits Memorial Stadium the day after Thanksgiving. The Buffaloes typically have used the running game to set up the pass.

There can be no question about the determination of this Nebraska defense. Each time out, "we try to play a perfect game," Wistrom said. "We try to shut our opponent down."

And that begins with stopping the run.

The Cornhusker Black Shirts don't have to hold opponents to zero or minus rushing yardage in order to accomplish their goal, however.

The Kansas running game definitely was shut down. "I don't know how you can say you're ever going to shut anyone down (completely)," said Wistrom. "But we're going to try."

Osborne tried to temper such enthusiasm, and maintain some perspective. "I guess it's nice that they think that way, but I guess I don't feel like we ought to just totally shut down people so they don't get any yards at all," he said. "It's better that they think that way than I do, though." ■



Holding Thurman Thomas to 7 yards rushing in 1987 ranks among NU's most impressive defensive performances in the last 20 years.

record 238.9 yards-per-game average. He finished his record-setting, Heisman Trophy-winning season with 2,628 yards and 37 touchdowns.

Colorado's Rashaan Salaam, another Heisman Trophy winner, had the second-best rushing performance against a McBride defense, gaining 165 yards on 25 carries in 1993. Salaam ran for 134 yards on 22 carries against the Cornhuskers the next season, when he won the Heisman Trophy.

Salaam and Sanders are among only five in NCAA Division I-A history who have rushed for 2,000 yards in a season — Salaam gained 2,055 in 1994. Nebraska's Mike Rozier gained 2,148 yards in 1983 to make the list, of course. And the others are Southern California's Marcus Allen, with 2,342 yards in 1981, and Iowa State's Troy Davis, the only back to reach that total and not win the Heisman Trophy.

Davis ran for 2,010 yards and 15 touchdowns last season. He averaged 182.7 yards per game, getting 121 of those yards, on 28 carries, at Memorial Stadium, in a 73-14 loss to Nebraska.

Davis will face the Cornhuskers again on Saturday in Ames, Iowa. The test will be the second for Nebraska's defense against a premier running back. Earlier this season, Texas Tech's Byron Hanspard went into the Nebraska game as the nation's leading rusher. He managed 107 yards on 31 carries.

The Cornhusker defense missed two other opportunities to measure itself against the best this season. Baylor's Jerod Douglas was sidelined by injury when the Bears came to Memorial Stadium, and Kansas tailback June Henley was suspended and didn't make the trip to Lincoln.

"You get to play a lot of teams that like to run the football in the Big 12," Nebraska rush end Grant Wistrom said recently. "I like the challenge of playing against a rushing team."

Iowa State's Davis isn't likely to fuel the fire the way Thomas did in 1987, however.

The lesson to be learned from that game was: Don't insult people who are bigger and stronger than you. Or, be careful about picking a movie to see on the Friday night before a game. ■

carries at Memorial Stadium. Green had rushed for 100 or more yards in eight consecutive games, dating to the previous fall.

Nebraska tackle Tim Rother earned Big Eight Player of the Week honors by making 11 tackles, including eight unassisted and three quarterback sacks, in the 42-33 victory.

In the fifth game of the 1994 national championship season, Wyoming's Ryan Christopherson came to Memorial Stadium averaging 152 rushing yards per game and left without gaining a yard, on 12 carries. But the Thomas trashing was the greater accomplishment, and, as such, more memorable.

By the end of the third quarter of a 35-0 Nebraska victory, Thomas had been replaced by his back-up, a short but swift and powerful junior from Wichita, Kan. — Barry Sanders.

The next season in Lincoln, Sanders, who gained 60 yards on only seven carries off the bench in 1987, had the most productive game any running back has had against the Cornhuskers since McBride succeeded Lance Van Zandt as defensive coordinator in 1982: 189 yards rushing and four touchdowns.

The rushing yardage was well below Sanders' NCAA-

SCOUTING



By Mark Derowitsch

The pursuit of personal goals of Troy Davis will likely overshadow just about anything Iowa State will do during the final weeks of the football season.

Unless the Cyclones beat Nebraska. And while the chances are slim of Iowa State pulling off the major upset of Nebraska when the teams play Nov. 16 at Ames, Iowa, it is nearly certain Davis will accomplish what no other running back has done before the year is out — run for 2,000 yards in two consecutive seasons.

Heading into Iowa State's game Nov. 9 at Colorado, Davis had rushed for 1,594 yards this season.

"It would be an unbelievable accomplishment," Iowa State coach Dan McCarney said. "It all has to do with consistency, persistence, doing it week after week, doing it two years in a row against two of the toughest schedules this school's had in the history of the school."

Davis also needs just 302 yards to set an all-time record for most yards in consecutive years. Ex-USC star Marcus Allen has the record with 3,905 yards, followed by former Nebraska standout and 1983 Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier, who gained 3,837 in his final two years as a Husker.

Either record shouldn't be difficult for Davis to shatter. The junior from Miami is averaging 199.3 rushing

yards per game this season. Last year, he rushed for 203 against Colorado and 121 against the Huskers.

"It's easy to take T.D. for granted," McCarney said. "It's another 130-, 150-, 170-, 190-yard game. But he's doing things each week that backs in the history of this game have never done."

Iowa State is looking to do what no Big 12 team has done — beat the Huskers. The Huskers won their first seven Big 12 games this fall to increase their conference win streak (former Big Eight and Big 13 games)

Doug DeVoe



Troy Davis shoulders the burden of carrying the Iowa State offense.

PRESS PICKS

• Mike Babcock, *Huskers Illustrated*

Granted, Nebraska seems to have one offense at home and another that it takes on the road. But its defense has remained consistently the same. Troy Davis is likely to have a busy day. However, one player isn't enough to beat the Cornhuskers, who might be hitting their stride at just the right time. Besides, Iowa State got its final victory against Nebraska this century in 1992.

Nebraska 56, Iowa State 12.

• Todd Henrichs, *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*

With a back the caliber of Troy Davis, the Cyclones might control the football a fair bit. But can the Cyclones sustain long drives to get in the end zone? Probably not. The Cornhuskers will set up the showdown with Colorado with another easy win.

Nebraska 45, Iowa State 9.

• Kyle Svec, *Hastings Tribune*

Iowa State has lost some tough games, which show the Cyclones are improving. They're not close to Nebraska's caliber, however. Don't expect an upset at Ames.

Nebraska 63, Iowa State 17.

• Scott Franzke, *Prime Radio Sports*

Are we tired of hearing about Troy Davis yet? Sure he's a good running back, but he can't win any games for the Cyclones. He certainly can't win this one.

Nebraska 52, Iowa State 10.



Doug DeVoe

Iowa State quarterback Todd Doxzon is at his best when handing off to Troy Davis.

to 30.

The last time Nebraska lost a conference game was in 1992, when Iowa State pulled off a 19-10 shocker in Ames.

But the Huskers are just part of a tough three-game slate for Iowa State. The Cyclones lost to Colorado last weekend, play Nebraska and will end the season against Kansas State.

"A famous philosopher once said a long time ago life is either a daring adventure or it's nothing at all. I guess we're getting into the daring adventure stage of our season right now," McCarney said.

Davis isn't the only part of Iowa State's offense. When Davis needs a breather, McCarney sends in Darren Davis — Troy's younger brother — to relieve him at tailback. The younger Davis is second on the team with 189 yards rushing on only 26 carries this fall.

Quarterback Todd Doxzon, a senior from Omaha, Neb., had rushed for 173 yards through eight games, and has thrown for 1,185 yards and nine touchdowns.

Doxzon's backup is Todd Bandhauer, whom McCarney was hoping to redshirt this year. But when Doxzon was knocked out briefly of Iowa State's game against Kansas,

Bandhauer entered the game.

Doxzon's favorite receiver is split end Ed Williams, who leads the team with 24 receptions for 383 yards and one touchdown. Flanker Tyrone Watley has 20 catches and three touchdowns.

The Cyclones' line is dominated by seniors. Left tackle Tim Kohn, center Patrick Augafa, right guard Doug Easley and right tackle Mike Sakalas are all seniors who start for Iowa State. Junior Matt Rahfaldt starts at left tackle.

Augafa missed Iowa State's game against Kansas because of a knee injury. If Augafa can't play, senior Paul Skartvedt will start in his place.

Defensively, Iowa State has had major problems stopping anyone this fall. Teams are averaging nearly

500 yards of total offense and 33 points per game.

Linebacker Derrick Clark leads the team with five sacks

Dave Brcka, the Cyclones' other starting linebacker, has a team-high 92 tackles.

On the line, outside linebacker Michael Cooper and ends Rudy Ruffolo and Chin Achebe have combined for four sacks and more than 100 tackles, while tackles Greg Schoon and Bill Marsau help clog the middle.

Strong safety Mike Lincavage picked off three passes in the first eight games of the year, and cornerback Dawan Anderson and safety Tracy Williams have picked off two passes apiece.

Jason Brown starts at free safety and Kevin Hudson is the Cyclones' other cornerback.

Iowa State began the year by losing two games before beating Northern Iowa and Missouri. But since their modest two-game winning streak, Iowa State has yet to win another game even though it has come close a number of times.

Iowa State dropped a 24-21 decision to Texas A&M, lost to Oklahoma State 28-27 and was dropped 34-31 by Kansas.

But no matter what happens the rest of the way, McCarney said the season has been a stepping stone.

"I just want these kids to come out of the season with their heads held high and with some dignity about them, knowing that regardless of what happens in the final record that there has been progress made," he said. ■

NEBRASKA VS. IOWA STATE TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Sr
	*6	Kenny Cheatham	6-4	210	So
LT	77	Adam Treu	6-6	300	Sr
	73	Fred Pollack	6-4	305	Jr
LG	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Sr
	63	James Sherman	6-2	300	Fr
C	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	Jr
	59	Josh Heskey	6-3	280	Jr
RG	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	290	Jr
	62	Matt Hoskinson	6-1	280	Jr
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	295	Sr
TE	*90	Tim Carpenter	6-3	250	Jr
or	34	Vershan Jackson	6-0	234	Jr
QB	*7	Scott Frost	6-3	215	Jr
	11	Matt Turman	5-11	185	Sr
FB	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Sr
	45	Joel Makovicka	5-11	230	So
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	So
	21	Damon Benning	5-11	210	Sr
WB	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	205	Sr
	14	Lance Brown	5-11	190	So
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-10	200	So

CYCLONE DEFENSE

LE	97	Rudy Ruffalo	6-3	268	Jr
	74	Jack Mitchell	6-4	248	Fr
LT	90	Greg Schoon	6-3	280	Jr
	57	Chris Brunsvold	6-3	309	So
RT	72	Bill Marsau	6-5	264	Fr
	55	Antonio Mays	6-2	280	Fr
RE	26	Chin Achebe	6-2	246	Sr
or	91	Sheldon Napastuk	6-5	272	Sr
OLB	38	Michael Cooper	6-1	202	Jr
or	36	James Elmore	6-2	220	Fr
ILB	48	Dave Brcka	6-2	233	Fr
	54	Andre Lee	6-0	230	So
ILB	11	Derrick Clark	6-4	237	Jr
	50	Kip King	6-0	229	So
LCB	13	Kevin Hudson	6-0	175	Jr
	19	Kemp Knighten	6-0	189	So
SS	20	Mike Lincavage	6-1	202	Sr
	31	Tracy Williams	6-0	218	Jr
FS	23	Jason Brown	5-10	188	Sr
	3	Jeff St. Clair	6-0	201	Sr
RCB	14	Dawan Anderson	5-8	164	So
	25	Kevin Wilson	5-10	182	So
P	16	Marc Harris	5-11	202	Sr

CYCLONE OFFENSE

FL	21	Tyrone Watley	5-9	179	Sr
	88	Jaosn Grant	6-1	180	Jr
LT	77	Tim Kohn	6-5	307	Sr
	56	Mike Sakalas	6-3	295	Sr
LG	75	Matt Rahfaldt	6-3	274	Jr
	67	Paul Skartvedt	6-2	277	Sr
C	65	Patrick Augafa	6-2	335	Sr
	67	Paul Skartvedt	6-2	277	Sr
RG	66	Doug Easley	6-2	282	Sr
	79	Charlie Bogwill	6-2	286	So
RT	56	Mike Sakalas	6-3	295	Sr
	71	Kurt Levetzow	6-5	260	Jr
TE	87	Dennis DiBlase	6-2	245	Sr
	89	Damian Gibson	6-4	247	So
QB	7	Todd Doxzon	6-1	191	Sr
	17	Todd Bandhauer	6-3	234	So
TB	28	Troy Davis	5-8	190	Jr
	2	Darren Davis	5-8	185	Fr
FB	42	Joe Parmentier	5-11	250	So
	43	Hez Jackson	6-0	231	Fr
SE	81	Ed Williams	6-3	197	Jr
	9	Daman Green	6-0	180	Jr
PK	45	Jamie Kohl	6-0	187	So

HUSKER DEFENSE

LRE	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	260	Sr
	92	Travis Toline	6-3	235	So
DT	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	300	Sr
	99	Jason Wiltz	6-3	295	So
DT	55	Jason Peter	6-4	285	Jr
	74	Scott Saltsman	6-2	270	Sr
RRE	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	250	Jr
	84	Mike Rucker	6-6	250	So
SLB	28	Jamel Williams	6-2	205	Sr
	46	Brian Shaw	6-0	215	Fr
MLB	44	Jon Hesse	6-4	250	Sr
	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	225	So
WLB	43	Terrell Farley	6-1	205	Sr
	91	Ryan Tervilliger	6-5	225	Sr
LC	*20	Michael Booker	6-2	205	Sr
	*12	Mike Fullman	5-7	170	Sr
FS	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	185	Sr
	3	Eric Warfield	6-1	195	Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Sr
	4	Octavius McFarlin	5-11	195	Jr
RC	22	Ralph Brown	5-11	180	Fr
	26	Jerome Peterson	5-7	185	Fr
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	185	Jr

Depth charts were compiled Nov. 10, 1996 and may change before game time. # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

Nebraska Proves To Be More "Special"

There was something special about Nebraska's 51-7 victory against Missouri. And you can take that literally, if you like . . . or even if you don't like, because that's how it was.

The something special was the Cornhusker special teams, although coach Tom Osborne prefers "kicking game" to "special teams." It's a matter of semantics. To him, special teams shouldn't be regarded as special but rather as integral to a football team, like offense and defense.

The way Osborne looks at it, those three elements are distinct but equal. Got that?

By MIKE BABCOCK

If not, well, Missouri didn't get it either, which is why the Tigers left Memorial Stadium and returned to Columbia, Mo., after having lost to Nebraska for an 18th consecutive time. "It's not going to be a happy trip back to Columbia," Missouri coach Larry Smith promised before departing.

GAME RECAP

The primary cause of Missouri's unhappiness was the play of Nebraska's special teams. (Hey, everyone else calls them that).

"They really dominated today," said Cornhusker quarterback Scott Frost, who watched most of the second half from the sideline with a swollen and throbbing right knee.

"Missouri had a harder time getting off a punt than a pass," Frost said.

In that statement was the story of a game few expected to be close. If Nebraska hadn't done anything well except pressure Missouri's punters, it probably would have won going away still.

Before their punting malfunctions, however, the Tigers spotted Nebraska seven points by mishandling a punt. After nearly cracking on Nebraska's first possession (which ended in a missed field goal from 31 yards), they forced the first of two Nebraska punts on the blustery afternoon.

Unfortunately for Missouri, Randy Potter failed to catch the ball, and Jay Sims, Nebraska's fourth-team I-back, fell on it at the Tiger 25-yard line. Three plays later, Frost passed 14 yards to split end Brendan Holbein, a secondary receiver, for a touchdown. "It was a delay route," said Frost.

With the tight end, his primary

DeAngelo Evans scored twice (runs of 1 and 5 yards) for the fourth time this season.

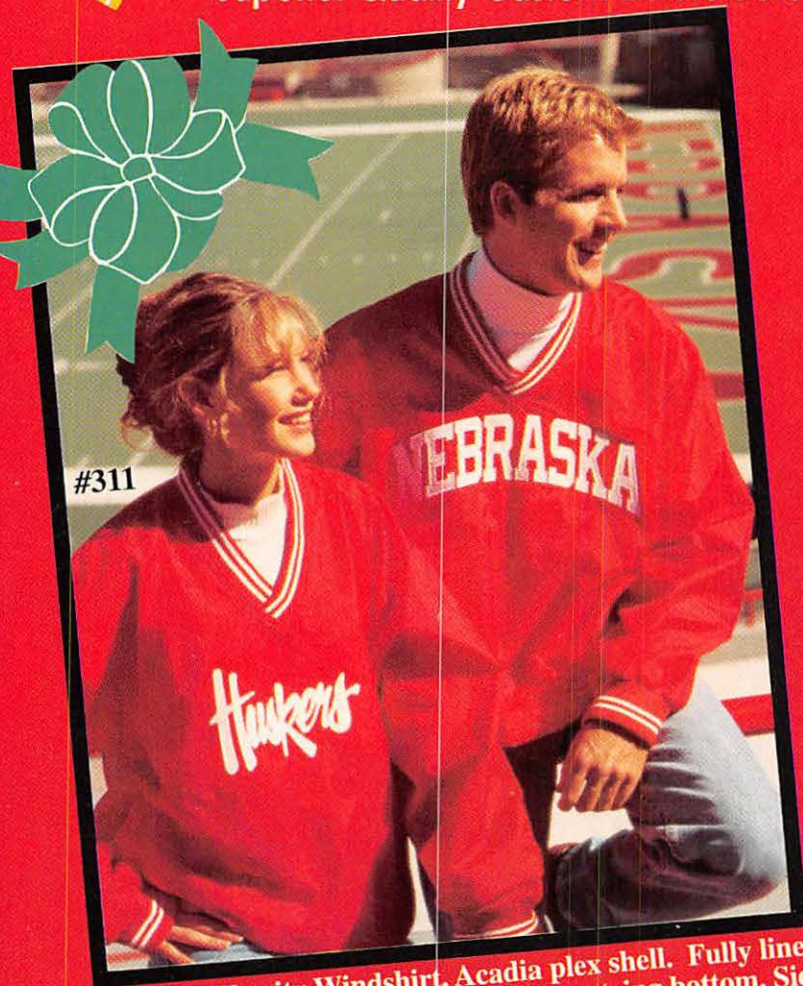
Missouri game photos by Jon Waller





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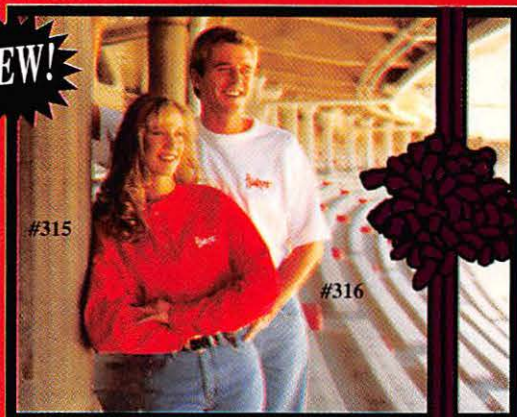
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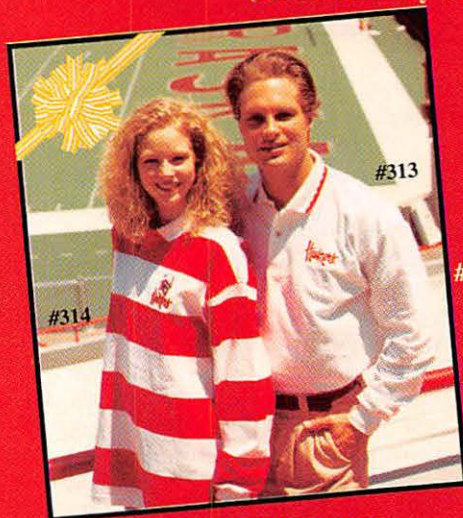


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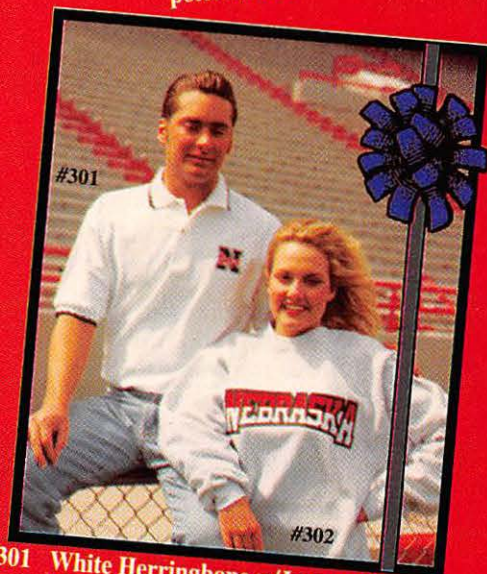


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receiver, covered, Frost had to look elsewhere.

Holbein, whose parents are Missouri graduates, also caught touchdown passes against the Tigers last season and the season before. "I've become quite successful against Missouri," he said.

Now about those Missouri punting problems.

Tiger freshman Vince Sebo, who kicks with a bare left foot, punted twice in the first quarter, and impressively. His first sailed 45 yards. His second, a low spiral, went 55 yards.

On his third, the ball never touched his bare foot. Under pressure from three Cornhuskers, including Terrell Farley, Sebo failed to catch the snap from center. The best he could do was slap the ball out of the back of the end zone for a safety, which increased Nebraska's lead to 9-0.

Rover Mike Minter set up the Cornhuskers' second touchdown a little over eight minutes later by intercepting a Kent Skornia pass and returning the ball 27 yards to the Missouri 4-yard line. He might have scored himself. Instead, he left the touchdown for Frost, who muscled in from 1-yard out.

"My running days were over a long time ago," Minter said with a smile.

Even though the lead was 16-0 as halftime drew near, Nebraska's offense seemed sluggish enough that there might have been reason for concern had it not been for what happened next.

Missouri was forced to punt, on fourth-and-19 from its own 11-yard, less than three minutes before intermission. Sophomore Jason Smith, the

punter of a year ago, had replaced Sebo. Though Smith caught the center snap, he was slow in punting the ball, which Nebraska's Eric Warfield deflected. Farley gathered it in and ran 9 yards for a touchdown, wiping out any suspense that might have remained.

The textbook blocked punt was Warfield's third of the season, and Nebraska's fourth. Warfield's first came in the opener against Michigan State. Since then, "the first thing that goes through my mind when I run out there is: 'I can block it,'" said the junior free safety from Texarkana, Ark.

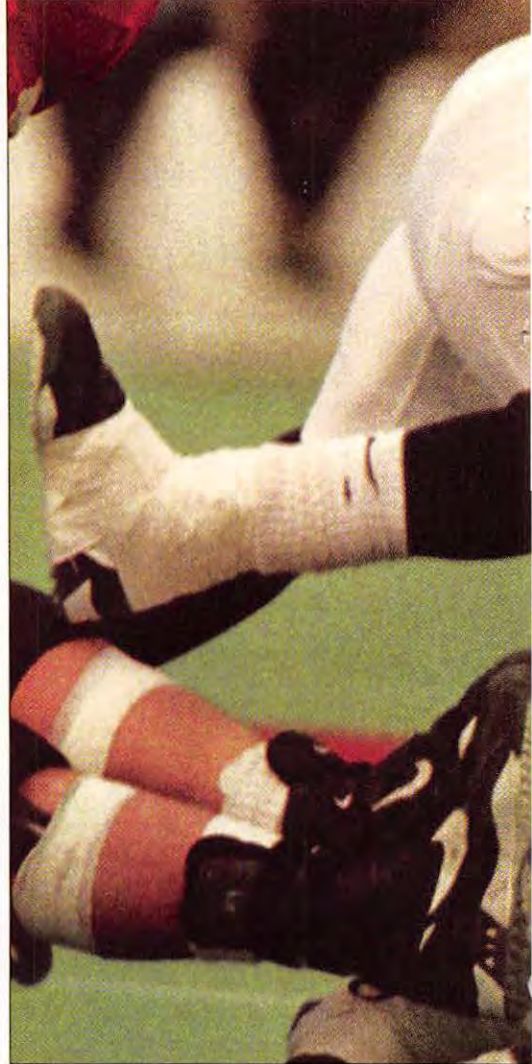
He also thinks about catching the ball and scoring himself, something he's seen Barron Miles do on videotape against Oklahoma State in 1993. "He got a nice one," Warfield said.

Touchdown or not, his mission was accomplished. The block produced a 23-0 halftime lead. It "got the crowd really into it, and that's when our offense really started taking off," said Warfield.

Sebo returned for the next punt, with just over a minute left in the half. It was partially blocked by Farley, to bring the season total to five blocked punts and seven blocked kicks.

If the punt blocks weren't sufficiently unnerving, I-back Ahman Green's 56-yard touchdown run on Nebraska's first play from scrimmage in the second half probably was. Before the third quarter ended, the Cornhuskers had three more touchdowns, two by DeAngelo Evans and one by Matt Turman.

Evans' first, from 1-yard out, was set up by a 70-yard run by Green, who was tackled at the Missouri 12-yard line by Potter. "I think he



Missouri didn't cross midfield in the first half and went to the locker room with minus-4 yards rushing.

(Green) just kind of ran out of gas," Osborne said.

Green, who finished with 161 yards rushing on 12 carries, agreed. He has been slowed for several weeks by a turf toe injury, and "I didn't have the stamina, that extra burst," he said.

"The toe's fine. It feels good. This week there was more of a significant improvement."

While Green was feeling his old self, Frost was ailing. On the game's third play from scrimmage, he kept on a bootleg for a 10-yard gain. When he was tackled, he landed "with all my weight on the inside of my knee," he said. "I was able to play on it. But the knee got stiffer and stiffer as the game went on."

As a result, "I wasn't as aggressive (running) as I should have been, probably," Frost said.

He was most effective at throwing the ball, completing 9-of-14 passes for 114 yards in the first half. He started the second half, but after the

INJURY UPDATE

Chad Kelsay, a second-team rush end and special teams player, suffered a knee strain and could miss the Iowa State game, according to coach Tom Osborne. Kelsay's injury appeared to be the most serious of several during the Missouri game. Cornerback Michael Booker and tight end Sheldon Jackson were bothered by hip pointers. Tight end Tim Carpenter left the game with a thigh bruise. Split end Kenry Cheatham suffered from a sore hamstring. I-back DeAngelo Evans had a bruised hand. And quarterback Scott Frost sat out the second half with a banged up knee.

In addition, cornerback Mike Fullman was sidelined for the second game in a row with an ankle injury and wingback Shevin Wiggins didn't play because of a thigh bruise. ■



A knee strain may keep Chad Kelsay out of the ISU game.



handoff on Green's touchdown run, he was replaced by Turman. "We didn't want to take any more chances," he said. Not with the score 30-0 and mounting.

As was the case at Oklahoma the week before, Nebraska's first-team defense was impenetrable. Through three quarters, despite nearly nine minutes more in time of possession, Missouri had 82 total yards, including 13 yards net rushing on 37 carries. The defense accounted for 30 points in all, with field position from turnovers, Farley's touchdown off Warfield's blocked punt and the safety.

"We have a defense that disrupts people a lot," Osborne said. "You hate to count on defensive scoring because you can't always just say you're going to score 14 points on defense. But we seem to be doing it a lot. We've got a lot of guys who are pretty quick and fly around a lot. They seem to knock the ball loose a lot. You can say if that happened once or twice, it was just breaks. But after eight or nine games into season, you realize there is something going on there that's not just entirely chance."

Counting punt return touchdowns, Nebraska's defense has scored 51 points this season, the most by an Osborne-coached team and the second-most by the Cornhuskers in modern history. Bob Devaney's national championship team in 1971 scored 60 points with defense and punt returns.

"The sky's the limit for this defense," said junior rush end Grant Wistrom, who had what for him was a typical performance — six tackles, including one for loss, in limited playing time.

Jared Tomich, the other rush end and a finalist for the Lombardi Award, forced two fumbles and was credited with three tackles. He missed an opportunity to score a touchdown midway through the third quarter, however, because he was unable to pick up a fumble by Skornia, which he forced.

Skornia finally recovered at the Missouri 1-yard line. A short punt and a 26-yard return by Octavious McFarlin to the Tiger 5-yard line set up Evans' second touchdown, and 10th of the season.

Tomich's inability to get a grip on Skornia's fumble was a subject of jest

during post-game interviews. "My hands aren't what I thought they were," Tomich said. "My adrenaline was going too hard."

Defensive tackle Jason Peter "just about got the ball, too, and I had to try to get it away from him. But he had that club (cast) on his one arm, so I knew he couldn't get it. I just couldn't snag it."

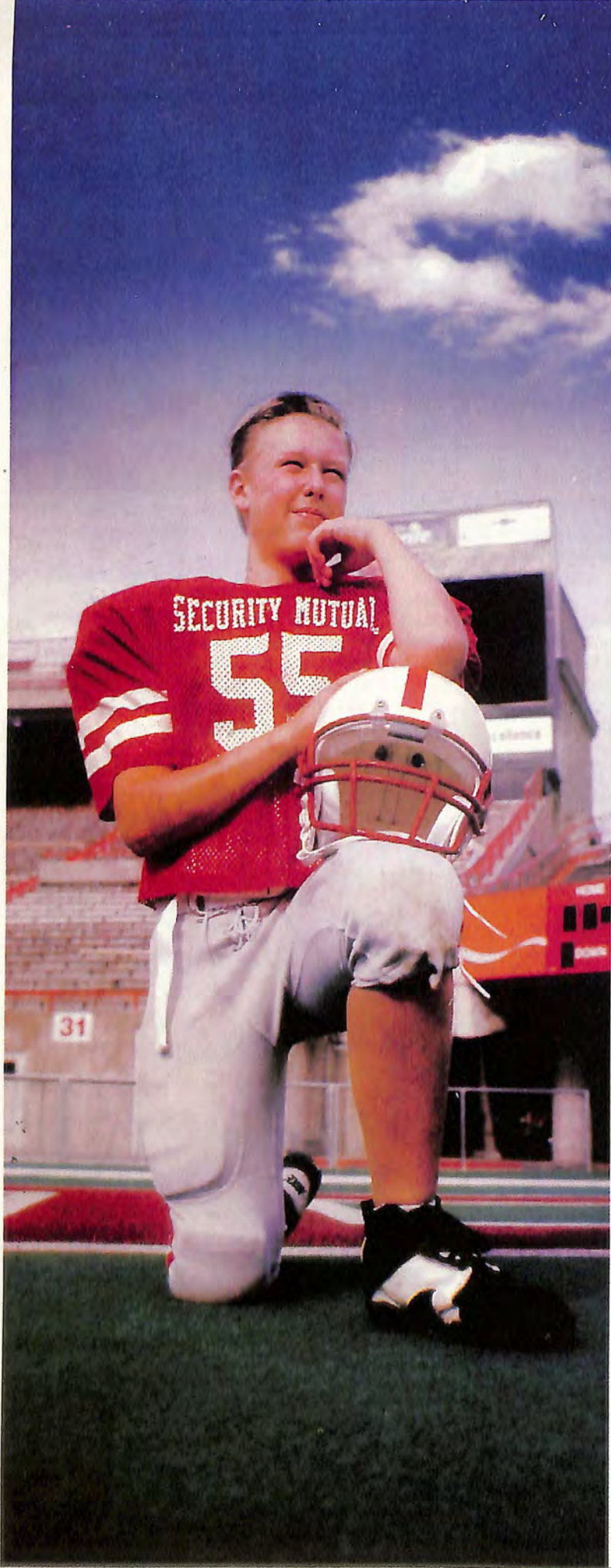
Wistrom offered some mock criticism of his fellow rush end. "We do a little scoop drill (in practice)," he said. "Jared must not have been concentrating. I feel awfully sorry for him."

Actually, Missouri, not Tomich, probably deserved the sympathy.

"We couldn't get anything going offensively," said Smith. "We tried the option. We tried to go inside. We tried to throw. And we just couldn't hold up up-front. We executed very poorly."

And then, of course, there was that frustrating business with the punts. "I said all along that Nebraska's strength is defense and special teams," Smith said. "They put a lot of pressure on you."

Yes, the Cornhuskers do. It's what makes them so special. ■



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STATISTICS VS. MISSOURI

NOVEMBER 9, 1996

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Attendance: 75,133



SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	7	16	28	0	51
MISSOURI	0	0	0	7	7

TEAM STATS

	MU	NU
First Downs	11	16
Rushing	6	11
Passing	5	5
Penalty	0	0
Rushing Attempts	43	52
Yards Gained Rushing	107	326
Yards Lost Rushing	60	27
Net yards rushing	47	299
Net yards passing	123	114
Passes attempted	20	16
Passes completed	10	9
Had intercepted	2	0
Total plays	63	68
Total net yards	170	413
Avg. gain per play	2.7	6.1
Fumbles-lost	5-2	3-1
Penalties-yards	6-69	7-44
Punts-yards	8-254	2-98
Avg. per punt	31.8	49.0
Possession time	30:55	29:05

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Wistrom	1	5	6	0	0
Williams	1	5	6	0.6	0
McFarlin	0	5	5	0	0
Ogard	0	4	4	0	0
Johnson, E.	0	4	4	0	0
Brown, R.	0	4	4	0	0
Tomich	1	2	3	0	0
Rucker	0	3	3	0.5	0
Wiltz	2	1	3	0	0
Peter	0	3	3	0	0
Shaw	1	2	3	0	0
Hesse	1	2	3	0	0
Foreman	0	3	3	0	0
Jackson, J.	0	3	3	0	1
Farley	0	3	3	0	0
Stokes	0	3	3	0	0
Minter	2	1	3	0	1
Kelsay	0	2	2	0	0

MISSOURI	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Easter	4	8	12	0	0
Cross	7	3	10	0	0
Jones, D.	1	4	5	0	0
Cracraft	2	3	5	0	0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
Green	12	161	13.4	70	1
Frost	8	28	3.5	16	1
Christo	2	24	12.0	18	0
Perino	4	23	5.8	16	0
Evans	8	20	2.5	6	2
Turman	5	19	3.8	11	1
Benning	4	16	4.0	22	0
London	3	6	2.0	3	0

MISSOURI	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Player					
West	10	49	4.9	13	0
Blackwell	8	26	3.3	6	0

PASSING

NEBRASKA	Cmp-Att-Int	Yds	TD
Player			
Frost	9-14-0	114	1
Turman	0-2-0	0	0

MISSOURI	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Player			
Skornia	4-12-2	45	0
McArthur	3-5-0	48	1

FIELD GOALS

NEBRASKA	Att	Made	Distance
Player			
Brown, K.	2	0	

MISSOURI	Att	Made	Distance
Player			
None Attempted			

RECEIVING

NEBRASKA	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Player					
Jackson, V.	2	40	20.0	21	0
Vedral	2	25	12.5	19	0
Makovicka	2	25	12.5	17	0
Holbein	2	18	9.0	14	1
Brown	1	6	6.0	6	0

MISSOURI	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Player					
Murchison	3	48	24	25	1
Jenkins	2	36	18.0	25	0

PUNT RETURNS

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Benning	2	20	10.0	18	0
McFarlin	2	37		26	0

MISSOURI	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Potter	2	5	2.5	3	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

NEBRASKA	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
Benning	1	20	20.0	20	0
Applegate	1	25	25.0	25	0
Legate	1	21	21.0	21	0

MISSOURI	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
Player					
West	1	21	21.0	21	0
Williams, K.	1	27	27.0	27	0

1996 SEASON STATS

(9 GAMES)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	8	123	694	86.8	6
Evans, D.	8	79	469	58.6	10
Benning, D.	8	72	409	51.1	6
Frost, S.	9	89	331	36.7	7
Sims, J.	7	35	256	36.6	3
Shuster, B.	8	39	116	14.5	1
Turman, M.	8	19	110	13.8	2
Makovicka, J.	7	18	107	15.3	0
Perino, J.	4	5	51	12.8	0
Cobb, J.	4	11	42	10.5	1
Eicher, C.	2	2	18	9.0	0
Kingston, B.	4	9	10	2.5	0
Legate, B.	2	3	8	4.0	0
Wiggins, S.	7	1	2	0.3	0
Cheatham, K.	4	1	-16	-5.3	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frost, S.	9	75-145-3	51.3	1,126	4
Turman, M.	8	9-19-0	47.4	126	1
Perino, J.	4	0-2-0	0.0	0	0

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Holbein, B.	9	15	238	15.8	26.4	4
Vedral, J.	9	14	234	16.7	26.0	1
Jackson, V.	8	9	155	17.2	19.4	2
Green, A.	8	9	93	10.3	11.6	0
Cheatham, K.	5	5	92	18.4	18.4	1
Jackson, S.	6	4	48	12.0	8.0	2
Evans, D.	8	4	13	3.3	1.6	0
Lake, J.	5	4	101	25.3	20.2	1
Brown, L.	5	4	91	22.8	18.2	1
Shuster, B.	8	3	74	24.6	9.3	0
Wiggins, S.	8	2	30	15.0	3.8	0
Wills, A.	3	1	19	19.0	6.3	0
Edwards, J.R.	3	1	10	10.0	5.0	0
Legate, B.	3	1	9	9.0	3.0	0
Wieting, S.	3	1	6	6.0	2.0	0
Makovicka, J.	7	1	3	3.0	0.4	0
Benning, D.	7	1	-1	-1.0	-0.1	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	9	15	9	50

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Williams, J.	9	25	45	70	1	4
Hesse, J.	9	26	39	65	0	2
Wistrom, G.	9	22	28	50	1	7.5
Peter, J.	9	13	26	39	0	4
Foreman, J.	9	10	25	35	1	0.5
Farley, T.	7	13	22	35	0	1
Minter, M.	9	10	21	31	4	0
Tomich, J.	9	12	18	30	0	5
Stokes, E.	8	12	15	27	0	0
Rucker, M.	8	14	12	26	0	7
Ogard, J.	8	8	16	24	0	1
Kelsay, C.	8	9	13	22	0	2.5
Booker, M.	8	6	15	21	1	0
Warfield, E.	9	7	12	19	2	0
McFarlin, O.	9	5	14	19	0	0
Terwilliger, R.	8	4	13	17	0	0
Wiltz, J.	9	4	13	17	0	1
Brown, R.	9	8	8	16	3	0
Shaw, B.	7	6	8	14	0	1.5
Jackson, J.	5	3	10	13	1	0.5
Fullman, M.	7	6	4	10	0	0
Toline, T.	5	4	6	10	0	0
Saltsman, S.	7	0	10	10	0	0
List, G.	7	7	2	9	1	0
Johnson, E.	5	1	7	8	0	0
Ortiz, T.	4	2	4	6	0	1
Brown, M.	6	5	1	6	1	0
Walther, E.	4	3	3	6	0	0
Peterson, J.	4	3	2	5	0	0
Allen, D.	3	3	2	5	0	2
Warren, S.	4	1	3	4	0	0.5

TEAM STATISTICS	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	3,886	2,047
Net Rushing Yards	2,634	720
Passing Yards	1,252	1,327

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT
NU	48	141	146	84	419
Opponents	16	27	7	40	90

1996 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record	(Conference)	8-1 (6-0)
Sept. 7	Michigan State	W, 55-14
Sept. 21	@ Arizona State	L, 19-0
Sept. 28	Colorado State	W, 65-9
Oct. 5	@ Kansas State	W, 39-3
Oct. 12	Baylor	W, 49-0
Oct. 19	@ Texas Tech	W, 24-10
Oct. 26	Kansas	W, 63-7
Nov. 2	@ Oklahoma	W, 73-21
Nov. 9	Missouri	W, 51-7
Nov. 16	@ Iowa State	
Nov. 29	Colorado	

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Cornering The Market

*Nebraska CB Michael Booker's brother, Dion,
among Huskers' top secondary recruits*

Defensive coordinators across the country watch the Huskers in awe each and every Saturday as Nebraska pounds another quarterback into the ground and wins another game.

Other defensive coordinators envy the Huskers because their teams don't have the team speed up front on the wings to force that kind of pressure, but they also realize they don't have the athletes at cornerback to make it happen, either.

In reality, it's the great play at cornerback in the secondary that allows the Huskers to sell out each and every play.

If Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride didn't have confidence in his cornerbacks, he would be a little more reluctant to go all out rushing the quarterback, leaving his cornerbacks in one-on-one coverage in the secondary.

The Huskers have had the corners recently, and are on the lookout again for the best available athletes to put in the secondary.

A year ago the Huskers signed some excellent defensive backs, but again are losing several to graduation, and therefore are looking to reload. NU hopes to return to the same family to reload at one corner.

Michael Booker has been a star at Nebraska for three years at cornerback, and the Huskers are going back to Oceanside, Calif., to recruit his little brother, **Dion Booker** (6-foot-1, 187 pounds, 4.5 in the 40-yard dash), one of the top cornerbacks in the country.

Both were about the same size coming out of high school, and Husker coaches feel Dion has that same kind of ability as his brother. Dion said his brother has been a great role model for him to follow, both on and off the field.

"I love to watch my brother play, because he's so physical, yet (he) brings a great athletic game to the field," the younger Booker said. "My brother can run with a receiver and

follow him all over the field, or take the receiver out of the game at the line of scrimmage. He's very physical, yet somewhat of a finesse cornerback, as well. He's also a big help to me. Whenever I talk to him, he's always giving me advice on how to play in the secondary, but not only that, he's always talking to me about keeping my life clean and living a good, solid life."



**By
JAMES
HALE**

Dion Booker also could make a great tailback on the college level. As a junior, he rushed for 1,654 yards (at an average of eight yards per carry) and scored 16 touchdowns, and he is having an equally good senior year. However, it's at cornerback where Booker expects to play, and Nebraska is very much in his recruiting picture.

"I won't go to Nebraska just because my brother is there, but I am liable to go there just because they have the best football program in the country," the younger Booker said. "Not only do they win, but their coaches have been there a long time and they play a style of defense that I love. I don't want to make up my mind right now, and want to give Texas, Colorado, Ohio State and UCLA a shot, but I think it's going to be tough for any of those schools to beat what I already know about Nebraska."

This season has not been as good to Booker, as an ankle injury has limited him to just three games, 440 yards rushing and just four touchdowns. However, he's getting healthy as the end of the season approaches.

The Huskers hope they can get back involved with another Booker. This one is **Fred Booker** (5-10, 178, 4.5) of Hammond, La.

Fred Booker said he always has had an interest in Nebraska, but the pressure for top athletes in Louisiana to play for LSU is intense. Booker, regarded by many as one of the top



10 cornerbacks in the country, has committed to the Tigers, but hasn't ruled out a visit to Nebraska and Texas A&M.

In Texas, one of the best overall athletes is **Cedric Cormier** (6-0, 180, 4.5) of Houston (North Shore).

Cormier is an option quarterback who has thrown for 832 yards and eight touchdowns, while rushing for 656 yards and another seven touchdowns. Cormier admitted that Texas and OU are his top two choices, but said Nebraska is a contender, along with LSU, Colorado, Florida State, Arkansas, Missouri and Michigan for one of his three visits.

Cormier's teammate, **Joe Walker**, (6-0, 178, 4.4) is one of the top 50 players in Texas, and said he's considering Notre Dame, Texas, Baylor, Florida State, Ohio State, OU and Nebraska.

J.J. Mathis (5-11, 170, 4.4) out of Pampa, Texas, is also one of the top 100 players in Texas. He is recovering from a broken ankle suffered in his third game of the season. Mathis said the ankle will be as good as new next fall, and that he has narrowed his choices down to Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Nebraska.

In Oklahoma, the top pure corner prospect is **Marlon Guess** (5-10, 165, 4.5) of Ponca City.

Guess is a bit of a mystery, because Notre Dame and Nebraska seem to love this cover corner, but OU and Oklahoma State seem unsure about his real talent. The real answer comes on signing day.

Many schools are chasing **Antwaan RandeEl** of Harvey

(Thornton), Ill. RandeEl's brother, Curtis, signed with Indiana last year, but Antwaan is considered a better prospect, and is more of a national recruit. A three-year starter at quarterback, Antwaan RandeEl threw for 1,370 yards and had another 950 yards rushing last season. Most look at the younger RandeEl as a cornerback, which he said he does not mind.

"I don't mind being labeled as an 'athlete.' In fact, that's probably a compliment," RandeEl said. "I think I will be a cornerback or a wide receiver in college, but I know that playing cornerback will be a challenge."

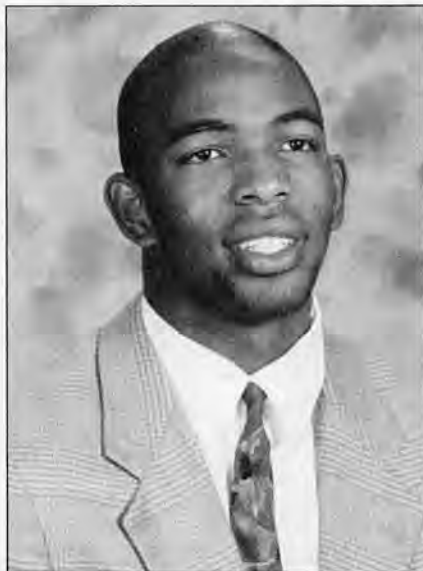
RandeEl said his top two choices are Nebraska and Indiana, with

Michigan and Notre Dame also getting visits.

Another in California being pursued by the Huskers is **Dewey Hale** (5-11, 175, 4.5) of Oakland (Freemont).

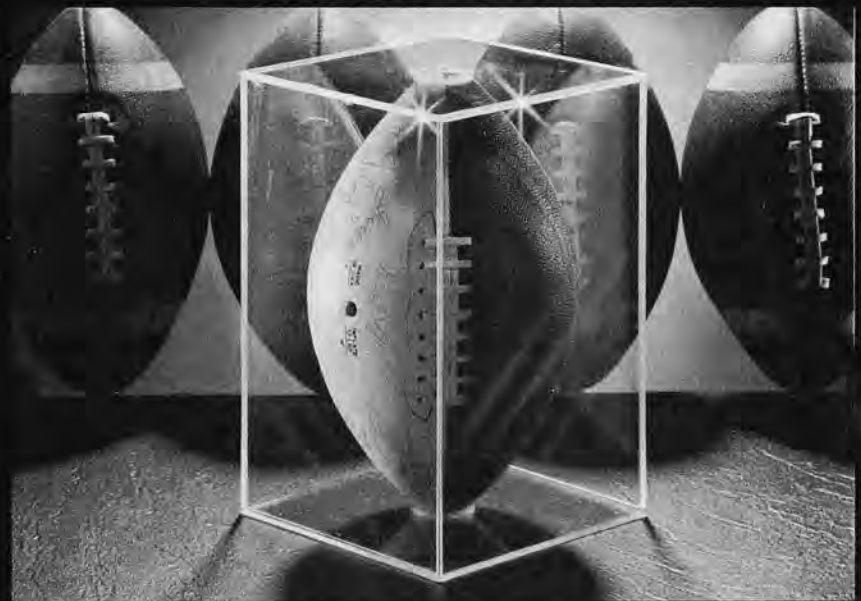
Hale excels in special teams returns as well, and is said to be looking at UCLA, Colorado, Texas A&M, Arizona State and Nebraska.

Abdul Howard (6-0, 185, 4.5) of Quincy (Shanks), Fla. is rated as one of the top 100 players in the country, and is the kind of player Nebraska is looking for at corner. Considered the top cover corner in Florida, Howard has said he has narrowed his recruiting choices to Tennessee, Florida State, Florida, Nebraska and Michigan. ■



Cedric Cormier, who also played quarterback in high school, is one of the top corners in Texas.

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W Based on the early returns, not much is expected of the Nebraska basketball team this season. *Street & Smith's College / Prep Basketball* rates the Cornhuskers third-best in the Big 12's north division. *Athlon Sports* College Basketball places them fourth in the north. And *The Sporting News* College Basketball Yearbook rates them fifth in their division, and 75th in the nation.

The Sporting News qualifies its assessment of coach Danny Nee's 11th Nebraska team, noting that "the Huskers could finish as high as third (in the north) and make the NCAA Tournament . . . but they also could finish last, considering their problems with Nee last year."



Chris Wildrick

POLL POWER

Nee's teams seem to play better with a chip on their shoulders and the preseason magazines have helped place it there this year

The problems, of course, were those associated with the brief player walkout of practice during the stretch in which the team was losing 10 of 11 games, after the optimism of a 15-4 start.

A negative perception of Nee's program, based on the walkout as much as anything, apparently remains, even though the Cornhuskers regrouped to win an NIT championship. "Will the players listen to the coach this year?" *TSN* asks. "The season might be riding on the answer."

There's no reason to think this year's players won't pay attention to Nee. Only one of those who walked out, sophomore Andy Markowski, has returned, and he recently told Curt McKeever of the *Lincoln Journal Star*: "In hindsight, it was totally wrong. But I was with the team and I was young. I was so close to going to practice that Monday. I decided: 'Well, I'm, with the team, just wait this out.'"



Seniors Bernard Garner and Mikki Moore and sophomores Tyronn Lue and Venson Hamilton didn't participate in the walkout. And everyone else on the roster this season is new.

"Everyone else" means only four other scholarship players, another reason expectations for the 1996-97 Cornhuskers aren't particularly high. Nee has had to add five walk-on players for practice.

If Devon Phillips, a 6-foot-2, 170-pound guard completes coursework for an associate's degree from Chicago's Malcolm X Junior College this semester, he'll join the team in late December.

Phillips, who is from Chicago, played two seasons at Midland (Texas) Junior College, where he averaged 16.1 points per game as a freshman and 20.5 points as a sophomore.

He could begin practicing on Dec. 21 and would be eligible to play immediately.

A third-place finish in the Big 12's

north division, of itself, wouldn't be that bad. With a healthy Jacque Vaughn, Kansas is an NCAA championship contender — Vaughn will be sidelined early in the season because of a wrist injury. And Iowa State is projected as a Top 10 team, even though the status of Kenny Pratt, the Cyclones' second-leading scorer and rebounder last season, is uncertain.

As for Missouri, Kansas State and Colorado, well, there's no reason to think Nebraska can't be competitive with all of them, assuming the Cornhuskers can remain healthy. Obviously with nine, and possibly 10, scholarship players, they won't have the numbers to overcome an injury or two.

Even though they weren't able to practice with the team until this season, three of the "newcomers" were enrolled at Nebraska last year. Larry Florence, Troy Piatkowski and Alvin Mitchell had to remove academic deficiencies in order to be eligible.

Danny Nee will be counting on Mikki Moore to shoulder much of the burden this season.

That they did is evidence of their commitment.

Nee couldn't work with the three, who are sophomores in eligibility, last year, but he could get to know them, which means he didn't have to start from scratch when practice began in mid-October.

Plus, Segado "Cookie" Belcher, the team's only freshman, has impressed the coaches during early practices. The 6-foot-3 guard from Mexico, Mo., has been compared to former Cornhusker Clifford Scales, as a person as well as a player. Scales was a four-year letterman, from 1988 to 1991.

Such a comparison is meaningful. It says a lot about Belcher and what he brings to the mix.

Scales was a starter on Nee's 1990-91 team, arguably the best in Cornhusker history, finishing with a 26-8 record, reaching the championship game of the Big Eight Tournament for the first time and advancing to the NCAA Midwest Regional in Minneapolis, as a No. 3 seed.

Nebraska was nationally ranked for a school-record 14 consecutive weeks in 1990-91. The Cornhuskers advanced to the NCAA Tournament (for what was only the second time in school history) ranked No. 9 by the *United Press International* and No. 11 by the *Associated Press*.

In a poll conducted by the Big Eight Service Bureau, Nebraska, which was coming off a 10-18 season, was picked by conference-area media to finish eighth in the Big Eight in 1991. Scales and his teammates took offense at the slight and used it as motivation throughout the season.

Nee's best teams have been regarded as overachievers. They seem to play best with a chip on their shoulder, and the preseason magazines are accommodating them by placing a chip there.

Likewise, Nee has shown resilience and a willingness to meet challenges head-on. He is nothing if not an intense competitor. He admits he was too easy on last year's team. That won't happen again.

Moore, who must shoulder a considerable burden this season if the Cornhuskers are to be successful, missed the first week of practice for failing to meet an academic commitment.

"We're sending him a clear message," Nee said.

He's getting his players' attention. And that's a good sign. ■

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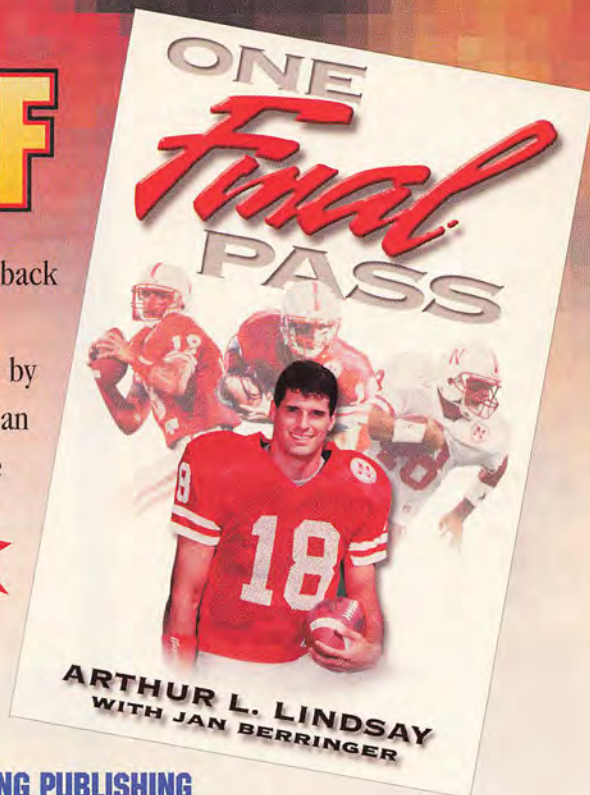
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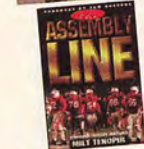
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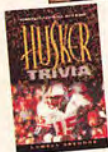
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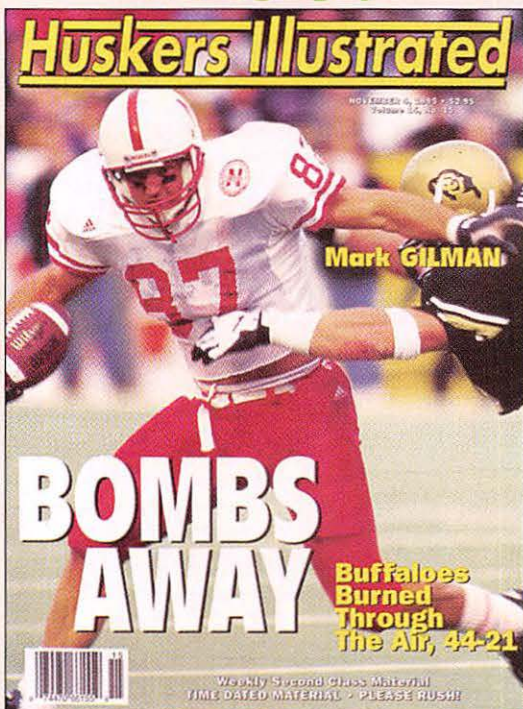
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Jerseys 81-90

Editor's Note: This is the tenth of an 11-part series featuring our picks as the best players ever to wear each jersey number in the modern era. Next week we'll break down numbers 91 through 99.

It's not bragging if you can back it up. That could have served as Broderick Thomas's motto.

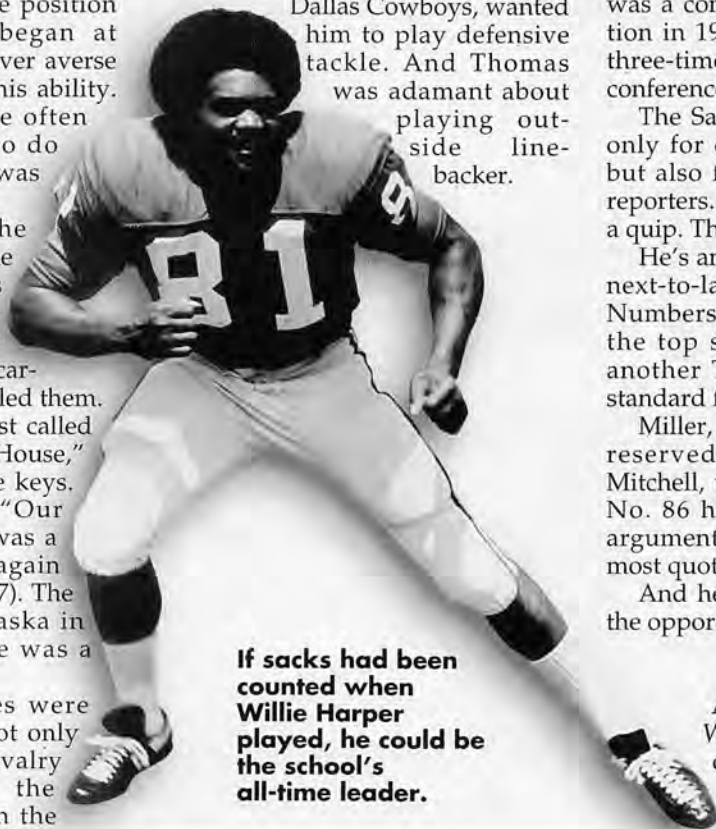
Thomas, a two-time All-American outside linebacker (or defensive end, as the position was called when he began at Nebraska in 1985) was never averse to discussing himself or his ability. But the thing was, more often than not, he was able to do exactly what he said he was going to do.

Thomas was the "Sandman," a nickname he earned at Houston's Madison High School. He was the "Sandman," he said, because he put ball carriers to sleep when he tackled them.

It was Thomas who first called Memorial Stadium "Our House," and talked of holding the keys. Oklahoma ransacked "Our House" twice, when he was a sophomore (20-17) and again when he was a junior (17-7). The Sooners also beat Nebraska in Norman (27-7) when he was a freshman.

The Oklahoma games were always big to Thomas, not only because of Nebraska's rivalry with the Sooners and the impact that game had on the

Big Eight title chase but also because Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer nearly persuaded Thomas to become a Sooner. The problem was, Switzer, who now is his coach with the Dallas Cowboys, wanted him to play defensive tackle. And Thomas was adamant about playing outside linebacker.



If sacks had been counted when Willie Harper played, he could be the school's all-time leader.

He wasn't about to line up in a three-point stance and be a down lineman, he said. In his own words: "I told Coach Switzer, 'I don't want to play defensive tackle, sir.' When I told them (the Oklahoma coaches) I was faster than their defensive ends, they told me I had a good point."

Thomas said he had been timed at 4.47 in the 40-yard dash while he was in high school. His best electronic time at Nebraska was 4.76, still outstanding for someone 6-foot-3 and 235 pounds.

Thomas was good enough to earn a varsity promotion early in his freshman season. "Broderick's one of those guys who might play the wrong defense and tackle the quarterback for a 12-yard loss," Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said of him at the time. He played in eight games in 1985.

Thomas ranks 10th on Nebraska's career tackles list, with 242. He was credited with 39 tackles for losses of 216 yards and 22.5 sacks during his four seasons. He set a school single-season record by recovering six fumbles in 1986, including three in the 20-10 upset loss at Colorado.

He was named to the Walter Camp All-America team in 1987 and was a consensus All-America selection in 1988. In addition, he was a three-time consensus first-team all-conference pick.

The Sandman set a standard not only for excellence at his position but also for quotable comments to reporters. He was always quick with a quip. There have been none better.

He's an easy pick at No. 89 in this next-to-last installment of "By the Numbers," even though he shares the top spot with Junior Miller, another Texan who established a standard for tight ends.

Miller, however, was much more reserved than Thomas. Johnny Mitchell, who gets the nod at jersey No. 86 here, could make a good argument for his being Nebraska's most quotable tight end.

And he probably would, if given the opportunity.

#81: Willie Harper
Also: Sherwin Jarmon

Willie Harper was an extraordinary pass rusher. Nebraska's records from his three seasons don't

#81: Willie Harper
(1970-72)
Sherwin Jarmon (1968-69)

#82: Don Purcell
(1959-61)
Dennis Richnafsky (1965-67)

#83: Larry Tomlinson
(1961-63)

#84: Tony Jeter
(1963-65)
Tim Smith (1977-79)

#85: Freeman White
(1963-65)
Tom Penney (1966-68)

Top choice in white (years lettered at Nebraska)

include quarterback sacks (sacks weren't regularly kept until the early 1980s). But he was credited with 18 tackles for losses totaling 88 yards in the Cornhuskers' 1971 national championship season, and that total doesn't include two games in which even tackles-for-loss weren't kept.

The 6-foot-2, 207-pound Harper was from Toledo, Ohio. He played middle guard as a freshman before moving to defensive end, where he lettered as a back-up for the 1970 national champions. He earned All-America recognition in 1971 and 1972, when he was a consensus selection.

Sherwin Jarmon (1968-69) was another outstanding pass rusher who wore No. 81 at Nebraska. The 6-foot-2, 210-pound Jarmon came from Detroit. He led the Cornhuskers in tackles for loss twice.

#82: Don Purcell

Also: Dennis Richnafsky

Don Purcell was a 6-foot-1, 203-pound end from Benson High School in Omaha who distinguished himself on Bill Jennings-coached Nebraska teams that didn't enjoy much success. Purcell earned first-team All-Big Eight recognition as a junior in 1960, on a 4-6 team. He was a co-captain in 1961 and led the Cornhuskers in receiving yards, with 173 on 12 catches.

Although Purcell is the pick, Dennis Richnafsky could just as easily represent the best of those who have worn No. 82. Richnafsky, a split end from Clairton, Pa., is tied for eighth among career receivers at Nebraska, with 61 catches for 676 yards and five touchdowns. He was first-team All-Big Eight in 1967, a season in which he set a record for split ends by catching 36 passes (for 422 yards and three TDs).

#83: Larry Tomlinson

Larry Tomlinson was a 6-foot-1, 204-pound end from O'Neill, Neb., who played for Bob Devaney's first two teams. Tomlinson was a solid defensive player, and he tied for the team lead in pass receptions in 1963 with nine, for 129 yards. The Cornhuskers didn't pass much in Devaney's early years. But they threw more than previous teams. According to Devaney, the fans at Memorial Stadium stood and applauded Nebraska's first pass in the 1962 opener — even though it

fell incomplete.

#84: Tony Jeter

Also: Tim Smith

Tony Jeter came from Weirton, W.V., to earn All-America honors at end in 1965. He also was an Academic All-American that season, as well as a repeat first-team All-Big Eight pick. He ranks 35th in career receiving, with 38 catches for 528 yards and one touchdown.

The 6-foot-3, 203-pound Jeter was tied for the team lead in receptions as a sophomore, with nine for 151 yards. He led the Cornhuskers with 18 catches for 219 yards in 1965.

Tim Smith (1977-79), an All-Big Eight split end and co-captain in 1979, and Donta Jones (1991-94), an all-conference outside linebacker on the 1994 national champions, also wore No. 84.

#85: Freeman White

Also: Tom Penney

Freeman White joined Jeter to give Nebraska tandem All-America ends in 1965. White was slightly bigger, at 6-foot-4 and 212-pounds. But he had outstanding speed. He and quarterback Fred Duda teamed up for the longest pass play in Cornhusker history: 95 yards for a touchdown against Colorado in 1965. That was one of eight touchdown passes he caught during his career.

White ranks 19th on Nebraska's career-receiving list, with 47 for 820 yards. He was a

two-time, first-team All-Big Eight selection and a consensus All-American in 1965.

His son, Freeman III, earned a letter as a back-up strong safety in 1989.

Tom Penney (1966-68) is among other Cornhusker receivers who have worn jersey No. 85. The 6-foot-1, 194-pound Penney was from Augusta, Kan. He led Nebraska in receptions and receiving yards as a sophomore (24-286) and again as a senior (25-424, two TDs).

Jim Hoge wore No. 85 until his senior season (see No. 88).

#86: Johnny Mitchell

Mitchell was to tight ends what Thomas was to outside linebackers: an extraordinary athlete, with a willingness to discuss his considerable talents. The 6-foot-3, 260-pound Mitchell played only two seasons at Nebraska before leaving as a first-round NFL draft pick. He caught 11 passes in 10 games, for 282 yards, as a freshman in 1990. He got the most out of those 11 catches; seven went



It took only two years and one Citrus Bowl game for Johnny Mitchell to become the best to wear No. 86.

#86: Johnny Mitchell
(1990-91)

#87: Bob Martin
(1973-75)
Bill Weber (1981-84)

#88: Guy Ingles
(1968-70)
Mike Croel (1987-90)

#89: Broderick Thomas
(1985-88)
Junior Miller (1977-79)
Frosty Anderson (1971-73)

#90: John Dutton
(1971-73)

for touchdowns. And his 25.6 yards-per-catch average in 1990 is a Cornhusker single-season record.

Mitchell caught 31 passes, a school record for tight ends and 10th-best overall, in 1991, good for 534 yards (ninth-best overall) and five touchdowns. Even though he played just two seasons, he ranks 24th on Nebraska's career receiving list with 42 for 816 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Mitchell caught five passes for 138 yards in the Cornhuskers' loss against Georgia Tech in the 1991 Citrus Bowl game. The receiving yardage is a Nebraska bowl-game record.

#87: Bob Martin

Also: Bill Weber

Bob Martin was a fast, tough and durable defensive end on Osborne's first three teams. The 6-foot-1, 208-pound Martin came from David City, Neb., where he was a running back and linebacker in high school. He became a starter as a sophomore, and never relinquished the job. He was a co-captain as a senior, a two-time first-team all-conference pick and an All-American in 1975.

Bill Weber (1981-84) is among other outstanding defensive ends who have worn No. 87.

#88: Guy Ingles

Also: Mike Croel

Guy Ingles was a 5-foot-9, 158-pound split end from Westside High School in Omaha. Despite his size, he was tough. Nebraska's 1970 media guide noted: "Ranks with Husker Mighty-Mites, like Frank Solich and Larry Wachholtz, of the past in the rugged department."

Ingles caught more passes than any split end in Cornhusker history: 74, for 1,157 yards (15.6) and 11 touchdowns. He ranks third on Nebraska's career list among all receivers. His name is on the Cornhuskers' Top 10 list for receiving yards in a game: at No. 2, 163 yards on five catches against Oklahoma State in 1969; and at No. 9, 133 yards on only three catches against Kansas State in 1970.

The versatile Ingles, who served as a Nebraska assistant coach from 1976 to 1978, also returned kicks. He ran back a punt 62 yards for a crucial touchdown in a 22-6 victory at Colorado in 1968.

Huge (see No. 85), who came from Holdrege, Neb., was an outstanding end (1960-62). He led Devaney's first team in pass recep-

tions with 11, for 208 yards and one touchdown. He also was an outstanding student, earning academic all-conference honors three times and Academic All-America recognition as a senior, the only season in which he wore jersey No. 88.

Mike Croel (1987-90), first-team All-Big Eight in 1990, redefined the outside linebacker position with his exceptional speed and athletic ability. He was from Sudbury, Mass.

#89: Broderick Thomas

Also: Junior Miller, Frosty Anderson

Thomas doesn't get this number to himself.

Miller ranks among Nebraska's greatest tight ends. He came from

Midland, Texas, to earn first-team All-Big Eight honors twice. He was a consensus All-American in 1979. He is tied for 13th on the Cornhuskers' career receiving list, with 55 catches for 1,045 yards and 12 touchdowns.

The 6-foot-4, 222-pound Miller was an exceptional athlete. He was a high school All-American in both football and basketball and had a brief tryout with Coach Joe Cipriano's Nebraska basketball team.

Kansas State football coach Jim Dickey was so impressed with Miller that he once said he would hate to see "Senior Miller" if Nebraska's tight end was only "Junior Miller."

Split end Frosty Anderson (1971-73) is among others who have worn No. 89. Anderson was first-team all-conference and an Academic All-American in 1973.

#90: John Dutton

John Dutton's nickname was "Lurch." Like Miller, he was a high school All-American in basketball as well as football in Rapid City, S.D. The 6-foot-7, 248-pound defensive tackle dominated at the line of scrimmage. He was a consensus All-American in 1973, after which he was selected by the Baltimore Colts in the first round. ■



In one of the closest races, Broderick Thomas (right) barely edges out Junior Miller as the best to wear No. 89.



OVERVIEW

It's An Art

Nebraska special teams continue to put on clinics at opponents' expense

By **MIKE BABCOCK**

Need someone to conduct a punt blocking clinic? Craig Bohl's your guy. You can contact him at his South Stadium office.

After Nebraska defeated Missouri 51-7 last Saturday, Bohl told fellow Cornhusker assistant coach Turner Gill: "I'd probably be speaking at clinics on how to block punts now."

Bohl, the linebackers coach, also is responsible for special teams, which blocked two punts against Missouri to increase their season's total to five. They've blocked seven kicks, in all.

Bohl seemed willing to share his philosophy of punt blocking with reporters. "We try to put our two best athletes out there and make sure the punter feels he's going to get pressured," Bohl said.

Based on appearances, anyway, Missouri's freshman punter, Vince Sebo, felt pressure. He mishandled a center snap and had to knock the ball out of the back of the end zone for a safety in order to avoid giving up a touchdown. And later he had a punt partially blocked by Terrell Farley.

Sophomore Jason Smith, the Tigers' No. 1 punter a year ago, replaced Sebo for one punt, which was blocked by Eric Warfield then scooped up and returned by Farley for a touchdown.

"There's a residual effect," said Bohl. "The punter (Sebo) got nervous and started shanking."

It sounds easy enough. Just have two great athletes rush the punter.

Of course, you have to have great athletes like Farley and Warfield on your team. "A lot has to do with their athletic ability," said Bohl. "They have tremendous hand-eye coordination."

Then the head coach has to let you use them on punt coverage. Nebraska might be unique in that. "We want to have our best, freshest players on the field (for special teams)," Bohl said.

Farley's reputation for big plays at weakside linebacker is well-established. He blocked two punts last season (including one against Missouri) and intercepted three passes, two of which he returned for touchdowns. His vertical jump is 36 inches, and his best time in the 40-yard dash is 4.60.

Warfield, the back-up to Eric Stokes at free safety, also is an exceptional athlete. He has a 39-inch vertical jump, and he's among the team's fastest players, with a best of 4.59 in the 40.

The 6-foot-1, 195-pound Warfield also can run 10 yards in 1.56 seconds, which means a punter doesn't have much time for contemplation. Essentially, that's what happened



Craig Bohl's special teams increased their total to five blocked punts with two against Missouri.

against Missouri.

"The guy was so slow, I couldn't pass up the chance," Warfield said.

He studies videotape of opposing punters and their protection, analyzing their tendencies. And the first time he lines up for a punt, "I look at the guy who's supposed to be blocking me," he said.

The decision about whether he or Farley goes after the block is Bohl's. "I look at which wing guy I feel like we can beat the blocker with," said Bohl, who mixes it up for the sake of confusion.

Bohl punts volleyballs during

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practice, and the wings attempt to block them. The process is the same as blocking a football. But a volleyball isn't as painful. "Those footballs, they hurt," Warfield said.

Once the blocker has been avoided, Warfield tries to get to a "diving point," the optimum place to leave his feet and extend his arms. The "diving point" is at "about 9 yards," he said. "That's not to say I'm counting to 9 yards, though." He relies on instinct, and having done it over and over during practice.

If his instincts are right, he'll take the ball off his arms, which is what he did on Smith's punt.

Missouri tried to compensate for the early problems by replacing those responsible for blocking Farley and Warfield with bigger players, tight ends. In doing that, the Tigers sacrificed the downfield coverage smaller, faster blockers would give them. "That threw me for a loop," said Bohl.

As with anything else, the Tigers had to give up something in order to get something. "By (Missouri's) sacrificing the coverage (speed), 'Tavy' got the nice return," Bohl said.

"Tavy" is junior Octavious McFarlin, Mike Minter's back-up at rover, whose 26-yard punt return to the Missouri 1-yard line set up the Cornhuskers' next-to-last touchdown. McFarlin returned punts in the absence of Mike Fullman and Shevin Wiggins, both of whom were sidelined by injury.

Despite Nebraska's success in the kicking game, opposing teams don't always seem prepared to deal with the pressure, according to Warfield. "I don't know what goes through their mind," he said. "We've been doing pretty good at blocking punts. We put our best athletes out there."


He and Farley have a friendly competition to see who can do the most damage on special teams. Against Missouri, Warfield did the tough job of blocking the punt. All Farley had to go was grab the ball and run into the end zone. He wasn't unappreciative of the opportunity Warfield provided.

"I'll try to get him one back next week," Farley said.

Bohl could talk about those things at a punt blocking clinic. He could share theories about reaching the "diving point," 9 yards in, stuff like that. But he couldn't provide the players to do it. That's the key.

"We've got superior athletes," he said. And superior athletes make great coaches. ■

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